

# Horowhenua District Plan 2015

## **Section 32 Report**

### **Proposed Plan Change 1**

*(Historic Heritage – Update of Schedule 2 to include additional buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)*

July 2017

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## 1 Introduction

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The primary purpose of Proposed Plan Change One (Proposed PC1) is to update Schedule 2: Historic Heritage – Buildings, Structures and Sites of the operative Horowhenua District Plan 2015 (the Plan) to include additional heritage buildings, structures and sites. The plan change also includes a few minor, consequential amendments to Chapter 13 (Historic Heritage) of the Plan resulting from the update to Schedule 2.

Proposed PC1 focuses on '*post contact*' heritage and therefore does not include sites of significance to Tangata Whenua or associated provisions that would apply to these sites. These matters will be separately addressed in future by way of a targeted, stand-alone plan change.

This report outlines the background, scope, regulatory and policy context and the amendments proposed as part of Proposed PC1. It also provides an evaluation of the proposed amendments in accordance with the requirements of section 32 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991.

### 1.1 Background

#### 1.1.1 District Plan Review – Amendment of Historic Heritage Provisions

A full review of the former District Plan (1999) was undertaken between 2012 and 2013, with the Horowhenua District Council (the Council) making its second generation District Plan operative on 1 July 2015. As part of this review, '*Section 7 – Issues, Objectives: Heritage*', of the previous District Plan was replaced by '*Chapter 13 – Objectives/Policies: Historic Heritage*' of the now operative District Plan.

The review also resulted in amendments being made to the rules relating to management of historic heritage buildings, structures and sites listed in Schedule 2. The rules apply across the various zone chapters and were updated to facilitate more effective management of historic heritage in the district; they reflect current best practice and aid interpretation.

The revised rules allow for the repair, redecoration and maintenance of heritage buildings and structures listed in Schedule 2 as a Permitted Activity, while the alteration of, addition to, or demolition of listed heritage buildings or structures requires resource consent. The rules also place restrictions on earthworks, subdivision and the erection of signage on listed heritage sites or within the heritage setting of a listed building or structure. Specific historic heritage related definitions for the '*repair, redecorate and maintenance*' were also inserted in Chapter 26 of the Plan.

Since the decisions on submissions on the 'Proposed District Plan' were public notified on 16 October 2013 (and the amended objectives, policies and rules have had legal effect) the owners of the following buildings, structures or sites which are currently listed in Schedule 2 have applied for resource consents:

- **H2** - All Saints Church (Group 2 and Heritage NZ Category 2 building): Three lot subdivision consent (reference number 502/2016/3774) granted in August 2016;

- **H15** - Horowhenua College Main Building (Group 2 and Heritage NZ Category 2 building): Outline Plan (reference number 504/2016/18) for alterations and additions to the Science Block at Horowhenua College was approved without recommendations in July 2016;
- **H26** - Mangahao Hydro Electric Power Station (Group 2 and Heritage NZ Category 2 building): Land use consent (reference number 501/2015/3643) for earthquake strengthening and alterations was granted in July 2015;
- **H47** - Miranui Flaxmill Remains (Group 2): Two land use consents have been granted: one to relocate a second dwelling on to 448 State Highway 57 (reference number 501/2014/3569) which was granted in February 2015; and another to erect a new shed at 467 State Highway 57 (reference number 501/2015/3604) which was granted in March 2015.

As well as introducing changes to the objectives, policies and rules in the Plan, Schedule 2 was also updated to fully reflect the current range of buildings, structures and sites within the district included on the Register of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahi Tapu, and Wahi Tapu Areas (now the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero) administered by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (Heritage NZ).

In line with proposed Policy 13.1.1 (which is now operative) the schedule was also reformatted to reflect the division of the listed buildings and structures into two distinct groups based on their relative significance as follows:

- Group 1 - Buildings and structures that have outstanding national and/or regional significance due to their "rarity" and/or level of "integrity".
- Group 2 - Buildings and structures have regional and/or local significance.

By contrast, historic heritage sites are separately listed and are not assigned to a distinct group based on their national, regional and/or local significance.

### **1.1.2 Rationale for the Proposed Plan Change**

As an input to developing the first generation District Plan, an initial survey and assessment of historic heritage buildings, structures and sites in the district was carried out in 1995/96 by local historian, Val Burr. This list was largely based on the buildings, structures and sites included on the Register of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahi Tapu, and Wahi Tapu Areas (now New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero) at that time.

Over time it has become apparent that there are gaps in the list of buildings, structures and sites currently included in Schedule 2. For example, there are currently only four buildings in Foxton on the Schedule which are the All Saints Church and three residential dwellings (being Duncan House, Nye Homestead and 31 Robinson Street). This illustrates a potential under-representation of the built heritage of the town, particularly given its rich history and important association with the Flax Industry. Although it is noted that the town centre of Foxton is covered by the 'Town Centre Heritage/Character Area' under the Plan which recognises, and offers some protection of, the heritage values of this area.

The changes made to Schedule 2 as part of the District Plan Review were considered to be an interim measure until a more comprehensive review of local historic heritage was undertaken. The need to undertake a comprehensive review of the historic heritage buildings, structures and sites in the district was recognised during the development of Council's Heritage Strategy in 2012, as highlighted by actions 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 of the Strategy (*these actions are listed below; see 2.3.2*).

The decision to defer a comprehensive review of the historic heritage buildings, structures and sites as part of the District Plan Review, was largely based on the following factors:

- That the Proposed District Plan introduced substantive amendments to the framework of objectives, policies and rules specifically associated with Schedule 2 listed features; and
- Given these proposed changes, it was considered to be advantageous for there to be certainty around what owners of listed properties could do as of right with their property, and what works/activities would be subject to restrictions, prior to any further buildings, structures or sites being included on the schedule.

Instead a commitment was made by Council under the 'Methods for Issue 13.1 and Objective 13.1.1' in Chapter 13 of the now operative Plan, to:

*"Commence, in line with the Horowhenua Historic Heritage Strategy 2012, a comprehensive survey of historic heritage in the District, including sites of significance to Māori, wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna and archaeological sites, within 12 months of the date of notification of the Proposed District Plan. The survey should apply a thematic approach to the identification of prospective historic heritage buildings, sites, and interrelated areas and be undertaken in consultation with Iwi, local historical societies, the NZHPT and potentially affected landowners."*

The submissions received in relation to the amendments proposed to the historic heritage provisions as part of the District Plan Review reinforced the need for a comprehensive review of listed heritage features to be undertaken.

### **1.1.3 Identification and Assessment of Historic Heritage Features**

In December 2015 and January 2016 the Council invited members of the public to nominate any buildings, structures or sites in the district that they considered to be of sufficient historic merit to warrant inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Plan.

The Council received 78 nominations, with 60 of these requiring further assessment and the balance being either duplicates (i.e. features that were nominated more than once), features already protected under the Plan, or were outside of the scope of this project (e.g. several were cultural sites of significance which will be assessed as part of a separate plan change process).

Due to the number of nominations received, the nominated heritage buildings, structures and sites were divided into two groups: non-residential nominations (e.g. commercial/industrial buildings or churches) and residential nominations (e.g. dwellings).

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During 2016 the non-residential nominated buildings, structures and sites were researched by two suitably qualified heritage professionals (Historian, Val Burr and Architect and Conservator, Ian Bowman), and assessed against the heritage assessment criteria set out in Policy 13.1.2 of the Plan (refer Chapter 13). A total of 32 non-residential buildings, structures and sites were assessed in 2016, although not all of these met the heritage assessment criteria.

The decision to assess the non-residential nominated buildings, structures and sites first (as opposed to the residential nominations), was based on the fact that they are:

- Illustrative of a wider range of building type, representative of the historical influences or events that have helped shape the district; and
- They are typically more accessible and/or visible to the public than residential buildings (e.g. Foxton's Main Street).

The residential nominations will be assessed at a later date, as funding and resourcing permits.

## 1.2 Scope

The scope of Proposed PC1 is largely limited to amending the list of historic heritage buildings, structures and sites in Schedule 2 of the Plan, as well as updating the District Plan – Planning Maps to reflect the changes made to Schedule 2. The buildings, structures and sites that are proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 at this stage are only those features which property owners are supportive of their listing.

Some minor amendments to Chapter 13 – Objectives/Policies: Historic Heritage are also proposed as part of the proposed plan change. These include amending the 'Methods for Issue 13.1 & Objective 13.1.1' to clarify what work still needs to be carried out in regards to identifying additional buildings, structures and sites to include in Schedule 2 in the future.

The 'Explanation and Principal Reasons' associated with Issue 13.2, Objective 13.2.1 and Policies 13.2.2 to 13.2.8 is also proposed to be slightly amended to insert reference to 'structures' (as well as buildings) and to improve the clarity around how these objectives and policies relate to the earthworks provisions associated with historic heritage features.

As a full evaluation of the costs, benefits, efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness of the operative objectives, policies and rules (including the entries currently contained in Schedule 2) was undertaken as part of the 2011-2013 District Plan Review process, no further re-evaluation of these existing provisions is considered to be required for the purposes of this proposed plan change.

As noted this proposed plan change focuses solely on 'post contact' historic heritage buildings, structures and sites, 'Sites of significance to Tangata Whenua' have been excluded and will be subject to a separate plan change in future.

## 2 Regulatory and Policy Context

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This section identifies the regulatory and policy context of this proposed plan change including the national legislation and policies, regional regulations and policies, and district strategies and policies considered to be of relevance.

### 2.1 National Legislation and Policy Context

#### 2.1.1 Resource Management Act 1991

Under section 5, the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is ‘to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources’.

Sustainable management means “the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health while:

- a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;
- b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
- c) Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.”

Section 6 of the RMA identifies seven matters of national importance which need to be recognised and provided for in policies and plans. Of these, section 6(f) is the most relevant to this proposed plan change as it requires “the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.”

Section 7 of the RMA requires particular regard to be given to a range of ‘other matters’. Of the matters identified, the most relevant to Proposed PC1 are the following:

- (b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources;
- (c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values; and
- (g) any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources.

Section 8 of the RMA requires that in managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are to be taken into account.

In addition to the above sections of the RMA Council must, in preparing a District Plan (or Plan Change), fulfil a number of additional statutory requirements set down in the RMA, including:

- Section 31 - Functions of Territorial Authorities;
- Section 32 - Duty to consider alternatives, assess benefits and costs;
- Section 72 - Purpose of district plans;
- Section 73 - Preparation and change of district plans;
- Section 74 - Matters to be considered by territorial authorities; and
- Section 75 - Contents of district plans.

## **2.1.2 Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017**

In April 2017 the Resource Legislation Amendment Act (RLAA) came into force. Amongst the range of amendments introduced that take immediate effect are a number relating to the plan-making process.

In terms of these amendments the following have been identified as relevant to Proposed PC1:

- A requirement to supply iwi authorities with a copy of any draft proposed policy statement or plan (including a proposed change) prior to notification and to have particular regard to any advice received (Schedule 1, cl.4A, RLAA); and
- A requirement to summarise, in the associated s.32 evaluation report prepared for any proposed statement, plan or change, all relevant iwi authority advice received along with the Council's response (s.32(4A), RMA).

## **2.1.3 National Policy Statements**

Under Section 75(3)(a) of the RMA a District Plan must also give effect to any National Policy Statement (NPS). Currently there are no NPSs that are of specific relevance to the protection and management of historic heritage.

## **2.1.4 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014**

The purpose of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (Heritage NZ Act) is to *"promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand."*

The Heritage NZ Act provides for the establishment of Heritage NZ, which has a primary focus to identify and protect heritage through entry onto the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero. Section 74(2)(b)(iia) of the RMA requires Councils to have regard to relevant entries on this list when preparing or changing their District Plans.

In this regard it is noted that Schedule 2 of Horowhenua District Council's Plan currently includes all of the buildings and structures that are listed by Heritage NZ within the Horowhenua District. It is noted that the buildings, structures and sites currently listed in Schedule 2 are not being reviewed as part of this plan change.

## **2.1.5 Building Act 2004**

The Building Act 2004 includes a range of provisions relevant to historic heritage such as section 4(2)(l) which identifies the need to facilitate the preservation of buildings of significant cultural, historical, or heritage value as a principle that must be taken into account in achieving the purpose of the Building Act 2004.

It also contains a number of provisions relating to health and safety, especially for earthquake prone, dangerous and insanitary buildings, which can sometimes create tensions with heritage protection.

*The Building (Earthquake-Prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016* is also of interest in relation to historic heritage buildings identified as earthquake prone. The provisions of this Amendment Act are anticipated to commence in July 2017 (as outlined in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's, Discussion Document *'Proposals*

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for Regulations under the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016' published in September 2016). There are different timeframes that will apply to the assessment and strengthening of earthquake-prone buildings depending on their geographic location and relative level of seismic risk identified (e.g. low, medium or high).

The Horowhenua District has been categorised as 'high risk' and as such the Council is required to assess priority buildings within two years and six months of the Act taking effect and other buildings within five years. If an Earthquake Prone Building (EPB) notice is issued then remedial work must be completed within seven years and six months for a Priority Building (which are yet to be identified) and 15 years for any other building.

The Former Manawatu Herald Building (6 Main Street, Foxton) and Racing Club Building (8 Main Street, Foxton), which are proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Plan as part of Proposed PC1, have previously been assessed by Council as being potentially earthquake prone. Although according to Council's records, works have been done to alter and upgrade both of these buildings since they were assessed.

## 2.2 Regional Regulatory and Policy Context

### 2.2.1 Horizons Regional Council's One Plan

Under Section 75(3)(c) of the RMA, a District Plan must give effect to any Regional Policy Statement which, in this instance, is the Horizons Regional Council's 'One Plan' (which comprises of a combined Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan).

Chapter 6 of the One Plan outlines the regionally significant issues, objectives, policies and methods to manage living heritage within the Manawatu-Wanganui Region, including indigenous biological diversity, landscape and historic heritage. Issue and Objective 6-3 specifically relate to historic heritage. The issue outlines the respective role and responsibilities of the Regional Council and corresponding Territorial Authorities, with the objective requiring that they '*protect historic heritage from activities that would significantly reduce heritage qualities*'.

To achieve this objective Policy 6-11 outlines the responsibilities of the Regional Council and Territorial Authorities in relation to historic heritage under the RMA, while Policy 6-12 focuses on the identification of historic heritage and it requires that:

- (a) *Territorial Authorities^ must develop and maintain a schedule of known historic heritage^ for their district to be included in their district plan^; and*
- (c) *Historic heritage^ schedules must include a statement of the qualities that contribute to each site.*

The proposed plan change largely gives effect to these provisions by incorporating additional buildings, structures and sites into Schedule 2 of the Plan.

Relevant supporting information setting out the respective values and qualities of the places proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 is contained in the '*Technical Assessments of Buildings, Structures and Sites*' - which is a compilation of the assessments prepared by Ian Bowman and Val Burr for the buildings, structures and sites proposed

for inclusion in Schedule 2 as part of Proposed PC1. This will be made available for the public to view.

## **2.3 District Strategic and Policy Context**

### ***2.3.1 District Plan – Chapter 13 Historic Heritage***

Chapter 13 of the District Plan outlines the Issues, Objective, Policies and Anticipated Environmental Results relating to the identification and protection of local historic heritage. This chapter was extensively reviewed during the District Plan Review, along with the specific rules associated with historic heritage features in the zone chapters of the Plan.

The approach applied to the identification and categorisation of the buildings, structures and sites included within the proposed plan change aligns with that set out in Policies 13.1.2 and 13.1.3 of the Plan.

### ***2.3.2 Horowhenua Heritage Strategy 2012***

The Horowhenua District Heritage Strategy was adopted by the Council in September 2012. Its purpose is to assist the Council and community to more effectively manage heritage in the District, and it does this through:

- Identifying key issues and opportunities to address heritage management in the District;
- Setting out a clear vision to ensure that the District's heritage is recognised, protected and promoted; and
- Identifying a range of actions and goals to facilitate more effective management of local heritage.

## **3 Proposed Plan Change 1**

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(Historic Heritage – Update of Schedule 2 to include additional buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

### **3.1 Proposed Amendments to the District Plan**

The primary focus of Proposed PC1 is to update the historic heritage buildings, structures and sites that are currently listed in Schedule 2 of the Plan along with subsequent amendments to the relevant District Plan - Planning Maps.

The following District Plan – Planning Maps will be amended to show the locational markers for the heritage buildings, structures and sites that are proposed to be included in Schedule 2:

- Planning Map 1
- Planning Map 3
- Planning Map 4
- Planning Map 5
- Planning Map 6
- Planning Map 7
- Planning Map 14
- Planning Map 15
- Planning Map 15A
- Planning Map 16
- Planning Map 27
- Planning Map 28
- Planning Map 28B

Proposed PC1 also involves some very minor amendments to Chapter 13 including updating the Method for Issue 13.1 and Objective 13.1.1 to reflect the work that has been done as part of the proposed plan change and to improve clarity of the Explanation and Principal Reasons associated with Issues 13.2, Objective 13.2.1 and Policies 13.2.2 to 13.2.8.

### **3.2 Supporting Documents**

The buildings, structures and sites proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 as part of Proposed PC1 were assessed by two suitably qualified heritage professionals (Historian, Val Burr and Architect and Conservator, Ian Bowman) in 2016. The assessments produced by Val Burr and Ian Bowman have been compiled in the '*Technical Assessments of Buildings, Structures and Sites*' document. This document is attached to this report under a separate cover as supporting information.

### **3.3 Consultation**

Letters were sent to the Ministry for the Environment, the Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council and Iwi Authorities in accordance with clauses 3(1) and 4A(1) of Schedule 1 of the RMA outlining the nature and scope of the proposed plan

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change and inviting comment. A list of the buildings, structures and sites that are proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 as part of this proposed plan change was supplied.

With the exception of a representative of Te Taiao o Raukawa (the environmental resource unit for Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga) expressing their disapproval of the timeframe that had been set for initial comments to be sent to Council officers, no further responses were received. It is acknowledged that the timeframe for initial comments was short, although it was considered appropriate in this context as the proposed plan change involved the listing of new heritage buildings, structures and sites and not changes to the objectives, policies or rules of the Plan.

Officers have also been in contact with the owners of the properties that were assessed by Val Burr and Ian Bowman. Information, including the draft assessment of their building, structure or site as well as on the relevant provisions in the District Plan, was provided to owners.

At this stage the buildings, structures and sites which are proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the District Plan are those which have the support of their respective owner/s for inclusion.

## 4 Section 32 Evaluation

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Section 32 sets out the requirements for preparing and publishing plan change evaluation reports. A proposed plan change must be evaluated in terms of whether its stated objective/s is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA and whether the proposed provisions are the most appropriate way to achieve the objective/s. For this proposed plan change the existing objectives in the operative District Plan are still considered to be the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA.

The primary objective relevant to this matter is Objective 13.2.1, which states as follows:

***Objective 13.2.1 Protection of Historic Heritage***

*To protect significant historic heritage that reflects the culture and history of the Horowhenua District from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.*

The Council is also required to identify other reasonably practicable options and to assess their efficiency and effectiveness; this includes identifying and assessing the benefits and costs of the environmental, economic, social and cultural effects that are anticipated. Where practicable the benefits and costs should be quantified. Any opportunities for economic growth and employment (and whether these are anticipated to be provided or reduced by the change) must also be assessed.

### **4.1 Update Schedule 2 of the Plan to include additional buildings, structures and sites, and other minor amendments**

The objective of Proposed PC1 is to provide for local, non-residential buildings, structures and sites that are historically significant to be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. This is proposed to be achieved by updating Schedule 2 to include 11 additional buildings, structures and sites as well as making some minor amendments to Chapter 13 of the Plan to increase clarity. The current list of heritage buildings, structures and sites in Schedule 2 was compiled in 1995/96 as part of the development of Horowhenua's first generation District Plan. As such this list largely comprises buildings, structures and sites that were on the Register of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahi Tapu, and Wahi Tapu Areas (now New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero).

Over time it has become apparent that there are gaps in the current list of buildings, structures and sites included in Schedule 2 (e.g. there are only four buildings in Foxton that are protected; three dwellings and a church). As part of the District Plan Review, Schedule 2 was updated to

ensure that it still reflected the relevant entries contained on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero. However, this was only considered to be an interim measure until a comprehensive survey of local heritage buildings, structures and sites could be carried out.

It is considered that Proposed PC1 will help to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations under section 6(f) of the RMA and Policy 6-12(a) of the Horizons Regional Council’s One Plan. It does this by proposing additional buildings, structures and sites identified as being of historic heritage value for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Plan; which means that these places will be subject to specific provisions to encourage their ongoing protection and management. The minor amendments to Chapter 13 simply involve the Method for Issue 13.1 and Objective 13.1.1 and the Explanation and Principal Reasons associated with Issues 13.2, Objective 13.2.1 and Policies 13.2.2 to 13.2.8 being updated to improve clarity and confirm Council approach going forward.

Proposed PC1 is consistent with Chapter 13 of the Plan including Objective 13.1.1 which is *“To identify historic heritage within the District that is representative of its history of occupation and settlement.”* Furthermore, the identification, assessment and categorisation of the non-residential buildings, structures and sites proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 aligns with the approach outlined in Policies 13.1.2 and 13.1.3 of the Plan.

#### **4.1.1 Evaluation of Other Reasonably Practicable Options:**

This part of the report evaluates the following alternative options:

*Option 1: Proposed Plan Change – update Schedule 2 and Chapter 13 as proposed.*

*Option 2: Status Quo - Retain the existing list of Schedule 2 of heritage buildings, structures and site, without change and do not amend Chapter 13.*

*Option 3: Rely on Non-Regulatory Measures (e.g. promoting greater public awareness of heritage, waiving consent fees for heritage buildings, structures or sites, or providing funding or grants to owners of heritage buildings, structures or sites to help them maintain or enhance the heritage values of the property) – without amending Schedule 2 and Chapter 13 as proposed.*

	<b>Option 1: Proposed Plan Change</b>	<b>Option 2: Status Quo</b>	<b>Option 3: Non-regulatory measures</b>
<b>Costs</b> (Environmental, Economic, Social and Cultural)	<p><b>Economic Cost:</b> Costs associated with the development and implementation of a proposed plan change.</p> <p><b>Economic Cost:</b> Potential increase in</p>	<p><b>Environmental and Social Cost:</b> Potential for loss of local, significant heritage. Not all significant non-residential heritage buildings, structures and sites are currently listed in Schedule 2 and therefore their protection</p>	<p><b>Economic Cost:</b> Potential development and implementation costs depending on the nature and extent of non-regulatory measures the Council decides to implement (e.g. financial incentives such as</p>

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	Option 1: Proposed Plan Change	Option 2: Status Quo	Option 3: Non-regulatory measures
	<p>compliance (e.g. resource consents) and operational costs (e.g. sympathetic alterations) for owners of newly listed heritage buildings, structures and sites, and extra cost incurred by Council (i.e. resource consents are currently 30-40% publicly funded and 60-70% privately funded).</p> <p>No Environmental, Social or Cultural Costs have been identified.</p>	<p>and management is not provided for through the Plan. As a result the potential exists for unlisted, yet significant heritage buildings, structures and sites to be demolished or inappropriately redeveloped/altered.</p> <p>No Economic or Cultural Costs have been identified.</p>	<p>discretionary grants or rates relief).</p> <p><b>Environmental and Social Cost:</b> Potential for loss of currently unlisted local significant heritage where current or future property owners are not responsive to non-regulatory methods.</p> <p><b>Environmental and Social Cost:</b> Property owners are supportive of Schedule 2 of the Plan being amended to include their building, structure or site. To not include them would be a lost opportunity and would mean that significant heritage in the District would continue to be unrecognised and not protected in the Plan.</p> <p>No Cultural Costs have been identified.</p>
<p><b>Benefits</b> (Environmental, Economic, Social and Cultural)</p>	<p><b>Environmental Benefit:</b> Incorporation of additional buildings, structures and sites into Schedule 2 that have been assessed as being of local, regional or national significance and which warrant protection and management through the Plan. Would facilitate more effective management of these places and reduce the potential for unlisted, yet significant, buildings, structures and sites to be demolished or inappropriately redeveloped/altered.</p> <p><b>Environmental and Social Benefit:</b> The</p>	<p><b>Economic Benefit:</b> No costs in terms of implementation, as no change to the Plan would be required.</p> <p><b>Economic Benefit:</b> Owners of heritage buildings, structures and sites proposed for listing in Schedule 2 would not be subject to additional planning controls or incur a potential increase in compliance costs.</p> <p>No Environmental, Social or Cultural Benefits have been identified.</p>	<p><b>Economic Benefit:</b> No costs in terms of implementation, as no change to the Plan would be required.</p> <p><b>Economic Benefit:</b> Owners of heritage buildings, structures and sites not currently listed in Schedule 2 would not be subject to additional planning controls or incur a potential increase in compliance costs.</p> <p><b>Environmental and Social Benefit:</b> Council could ensure that guidance/advice is made available to the owners of heritage buildings, structures and sites which are</p>

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	Option 1: Proposed Plan Change	Option 2: Status Quo	Option 3: Non-regulatory measures
	<p>proposed additions to Schedule 2 would ensure that events or activities that helped shape the District are more fully recognised and better represented by the historic heritage buildings, structures and sites entered on the schedule (e.g. flax industry in Foxton).</p> <p>No Economic or Cultural Benefits have been identified.</p>		<p>not currently listed (as well as those which are) and this would help ensure their continued appreciation by the community and on-going contribution to their surrounding environment.</p> <p>No Cultural Benefits have been identified.</p>
<p><b>Efficiency and Effectiveness of Achieving Objectives</b></p>	<p>This option is considered to be the most efficient and effective response to ensure the protection and management of a more representative range of significant historic heritage buildings, structures and sites in the District. This is in line with the objectives of the Horowhenua District Plan, particularly Objective 13.1.1.</p> <p>This option is also the most effective in terms of alignment with Council's Heritage Strategy (2012). The Strategy includes a range of goals and actions for Council to work towards (both regulatory and non-regulatory) to ensure local heritage is recognised, protected and promoted.</p> <p>This proposed plan change would also ensure increased effectiveness and efficiency through the identification and</p>	<p>This option would result in Schedule 2 and Chapter 13 not being updated, with gaps in the range of historic heritage buildings, structures and sites included in the schedule persisting. Consequently, it would have limited effectiveness given the restricted scope of heritage places currently included in the Plan; it would also present an inefficient and ineffective means to achieve the objectives and policies of the Plan, as well as the Goals and Actions outlined in Council's Heritage Strategy (2012).</p>	<p>The efficiency and effectiveness of this option relies almost exclusively on the willingness of property owners to voluntarily regulate their property rights in the interests of the wider community.</p> <p>Consequently, sole reliance on non-regulatory measures is unlikely to present an efficient and effective means to achieve the objectives and policies of the Plan. It is recognised that non-regulatory measures can be quite effective when used in conjunction with regulation.</p>

	Option 1: Proposed Plan Change	Option 2: Status Quo	Option 3: Non-regulatory measures
	mapping of a more representative range of historic heritage places in the Plan. The minor consequential amendments to Chapter 13 resulting from the update to Schedule 2 will improve the clarity of these relevant provisions.		
<b>Appropriateness</b>	<p>This is considered to be the most appropriate option to achieve the objectives and policies in Chapter 13 of the Plan. Objective 13.1.1 provides for the identification of historic heritage within the District “<i>that is representative of its history of occupation and settlement</i>”, while Policies 13.1.2 and 13.1.3 outline how buildings, structures and sites are to be assessed and categorised; the approach adopted in this proposed plan change aligns with, and reflects, the intent expressed within these provisions.</p> <p>This option would help to ensure that additional buildings, structures and sites identified as being of heritage value would be protected from inappropriate use, development and subdivision in accordance with section 6(f) of the RMA; it is also more consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the Horizons One Plan.</p>	<p>This option is not considered to be the most appropriate to achieve the purpose of the RMA, as some heritage buildings, structures and sites which have been assessed as significant and which their current owners are supportive of them being listed in Schedule 2 would not be protected from inappropriate use, development and subdivision in the future. It would also not be entirely consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the Horizons One Plan.</p> <p>Furthermore this option would not achieve the relevant objectives and policies in Chapter 13 of the Plan which encourage the listing of a more representative range of historic heritage features.</p> <p>This option also does not align with Council’s Heritage Strategy (2012).</p>	<p>This option is not considered to be the most appropriate means to achieve the purpose of the RMA, the relevant objectives and policies of Horizons’ One Plan or the objectives and policies in Chapter 13 of the District Plan.</p> <p>Even if an expansive regime of non-financial and financial methods were developed and implemented by the Council for the heritage buildings, structures and sites proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2, in the absence of these places being listed private property owners are under no obligation to ensure that they are protected from inappropriate use, development or subdivision. It’s noted that while current owners may be sympathetic of the heritage values of their property, future owners may not be.</p>

## 4.2 Risk of Acting or Not Acting Where There is Uncertain or Insufficient Information

The proposed plan change primarily relates to updating Schedule 2, along with some minor amendments to Chapter 13. The buildings, structures and sites that have been proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Plan were nominated via a public process, have been assessed by suitably qualified professionals and their owners are generally supportive of them being listed.

Consequently, it is considered that there is sufficient information to act on this proposal. There may be a small degree of uncertainty, although the risk of acting is not considered to outweigh the risk of not acting. The risk of not acting is the potential loss or compromise of local historic heritage buildings, structures and sites.

## 4.3 Conclusion

This evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with Section 32 of the RMA in order to identify the need, benefits and costs arising from Proposed PC1 and the appropriateness of the proposal having regard to its effectiveness and efficiency relative to other means in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The evaluation demonstrates that the proposed plan change is the most appropriate option as it will provide:

- Effective historic heritage identification, through identifying and mapping additional buildings, structures and sites with significant heritage values in the district that merit protection and management through the Plan;
- Effective recognition and management of historic heritage values, through identification of the relevant heritage values associated with the additional historic heritage buildings, structures and sites in the '*Technical Assessments of Buildings, Structures and Sites*'; and
- Better alignment with the RMA, by amending Schedule 2 of the Plan to provide for the protection of additional historic heritage in the district as a matter of national importance.

# Horowhenua District Plan 2015

## **District Plan Text and Planning Map Amendments**

### **Proposed Plan Change 1**

*(Historic Heritage – Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)*

July 2017

## **Proposed Plan Change 1: (Historic Heritage – Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)**

### District Plan Text and Planning Map Amendments

Any new text that is proposed to be added is underlined, while any text to be deleted has been ~~struck through~~.

#### AMENDMENT 1      Methods for Issue 13.1 & Objective 13.1.1 – District Plan

*Amend bullet point two of the Methods for Issue 13.1 & Objective 13.1.1 to remove the current paragraph and replace it with two new bullet points. The new bullet points clarify the work that still needs to be done to identify additional historic heritage buildings, structures and sites, as well as sites of significance to Māori, wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna and archaeological sites, for listing under Schedule 2.*

- ~~• Commence, in line with the Horowhenua Historic Heritage Strategy 2012, a comprehensive survey of historic heritage in the District, including sites of significance to Māori, wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna and archaeological sites, within 12 months of the date of notification of the Proposed District Plan. The survey should apply a thematic approach to the identification of prospective historic heritage buildings, sites, and interrelated areas and be undertaken in consultation with Iwi, local historical societies, the NZHPT and potentially affected landowners.~~
- Have the remaining buildings, structures and sites, which were nominated by the public for their historical values, assessed by suitably qualified professionals to establish whether they should be included in Schedule 2 of the District Plan in the future.
- Commence a process, in line with the Horowhenua Heritage Strategy 2012, to identify sites of significance to Māori, wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna and archaeological sites.

#### AMENDMENT 2      Issue 13.2 Protection of Historic Heritage - Explanation and Principal Reasons

*Amend the Explanation and Principal Reasons associated with Issues 13.2, Objective 13.2.1 and Policies 13.2.2 to 13.2.8 as follows:*

The objective and policies seek to prevent the loss of heritage value associated with buildings, structures and sites included in the Historic Heritage Schedule due to neglect or under-use, or from changes arising from such activities as external alterations, additions, earthworks and subdivision.

For historic heritage buildings, structures and sites to be successfully and sustainably managed they need to remain functional. In response, the District Plan encourages their continued compatible use and enables regular maintenance, repair, redecorating and

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Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

internal alterations to occur without the need for a resource consent. The District Plan also recognises that in order to provide for the ongoing safe, functional and economic use of historic heritage buildings it is necessary for them to be upgraded to meet relevant code standards, including earthquake strengthening.

Historic heritage buildings, structures and sites are also subject to activities which can lead to their associated heritage values being destroyed or severely diminished. Insensitive alterations and additions, for instance, can detract from the architectural qualities of a scheduled building, while demolition in response to development pressure results in permanent loss.

To address this situation the District Plan seeks to ensure that such effects are avoided or appropriately mitigated by requiring resource consent to be sought. In the case of demolition of Group 1 buildings and structures or the destruction of sites, the intent is that these activities are avoided unless exceptional circumstances exist. Exceptional circumstances could include total or partial demolition considered necessary due to significant and irreversible damage from fire or natural hazard events.

The context or setting associated with historic heritage buildings, structures and sites can also make an important contribution to its heritage value. The relationship between a building and its site, for instance, can be lost or eroded through the reduction of its original surrounds. In response, the District Plan seeks to ensure that the setting of a historic building, structure or site is not unduly compromised or its value diminished by inappropriate earthworks or on-site development, or incompatible subdivision activity and associated development.

AMENDMENT 3      Schedule 2: Historic Heritage – Buildings, Structures & Sites

*Amend Schedule 2: Historic Heritage – Buildings, Structures & Sites as detailed in Appendix 1.*

AMENDMENT 4      Planning Maps – Levin

*Amend the Planning Maps 27, 28 and 28B as shown in Appendix 2.*

AMENDMENT 5      Planning Maps – Tokomaru

*Amend the Planning Map 16 as shown in Appendix 2.*

AMENDMENT 6      Planning Maps – Rural

*Amend the Planning Maps 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as shown in Appendix 2.*

AMENDMENT 7      Planning Maps – Foxton

*Amend the Planning Maps 14, 15, and 15A as shown in Appendix 2.*

## **Appendix 1 – Proposed Amendments to Schedule 2: Historic Heritage – Buildings, Structures & Sites**

## Appendix 1 – Proposed Amendments to Schedule 2: Historic Heritage – Buildings, Structures & Sites

### ADDITIONS TO SCHEDULE 2 - HISTORIC HERITAGE

#### Historic Heritage Group 1:

#### Buildings and Structures (outstanding national and/or regional significance)

Map	Ref	Site Name	Location	Description	Legal Description	Heritage New Zealand Category
<u>1, 14, 15, 15A</u>	<u>H57</u>	<u>Dolphin</u>	<u>Manawatu River (Foxton Loop) – to west of Lot 3 DP 457778</u>	<u>Former Foxton Wharf Structure</u>	<u>Manawatu River</u>	
<u>1, 14, 15, 15A</u>	<u>H58</u>	<u>Former Presbyterian Church</u> <i>(partial refer to note 1)</i>	<u>5 Main Street, Foxton</u>	<u>Community Building (Foxton Little Theatre)</u>	<u>Lot 1 DP 33751</u>	

#### Historic Heritage Group 2:

#### Buildings and Structures (regional and/or local significance)

Map	Ref	Site Name	Location	Description	Legal Description	Heritage New Zealand Category
<u>7, 27, 27B, 28, 28B</u>	<u>H59</u>	<u>Levin Cenotaph</u>	<u>4-12 Kent Street, Levin</u>	<u>War Memorial</u>	<u>Section 2 Block XVIII Town of Levin</u>	
<u>7, 27</u>	<u>H60</u>	<u>Weraroa Peace Gate and the Pioneer Memorial</u>	<u>North-west Corner of Mako Mako Road and Oxford Street, Levin</u>	<u>War Memorials</u>	<u>Part Section 32 Levin Suburban</u>	
<u>3, 16</u>	<u>H61</u>	<u>Tokomaru Memorial Gates</u>	<u>5 Tokomaru East Road, Tokomaru</u>	<u>War Memorial</u>	<u>Section 166 Town of Tokomaru</u>	
<u>5</u>	<u>H62</u>	<u>Moutoa Memorial Gates</u>	<u>Foxton-Shannon Road, Moutoa (south of Moutoa Hall)</u>	<u>War Memorial</u>	<u>Section 21 Block VII Mt Robinson SD</u>	
<u>1, 14, 15, 15A</u>	<u>H63</u>	<u>Foxton War Memorial</u>	<u>Corner of Ravensworth place and Main Street, Foxton</u>	<u>War Memorial</u>	<u>Main Street, Foxton (Road Reserve)</u>	
<u>1, 14, 15, 15A</u>	<u>H64</u>	<u>Former Manawatu Herald Building</u> <i>(partial refer to note 2)</i>	<u>6 Main Street, Foxton</u>	<u>Commercial Building</u>	<u>Part Section 100 Town of Foxton</u>	
<u>1, 14, 15, 15A</u>	<u>H65</u>	<u>Foxton Racing Club Building (Façade only)</u>	<u>8 Main Street, Foxton</u>	<u>Dwelling</u>	<u>Part Section 100 Town of Foxton</u>	
<u>1, 14, 15, 15A</u>	<u>H66</u>	<u>De Molen</u>	<u>24 Harbour Street, Foxton</u>	<u>Wind Mill</u>	<u>Part Section 598 Town of Foxton</u>	

Note 1: This listing only applies to the original sections of the Presbyterian Church building constructed in 1867.

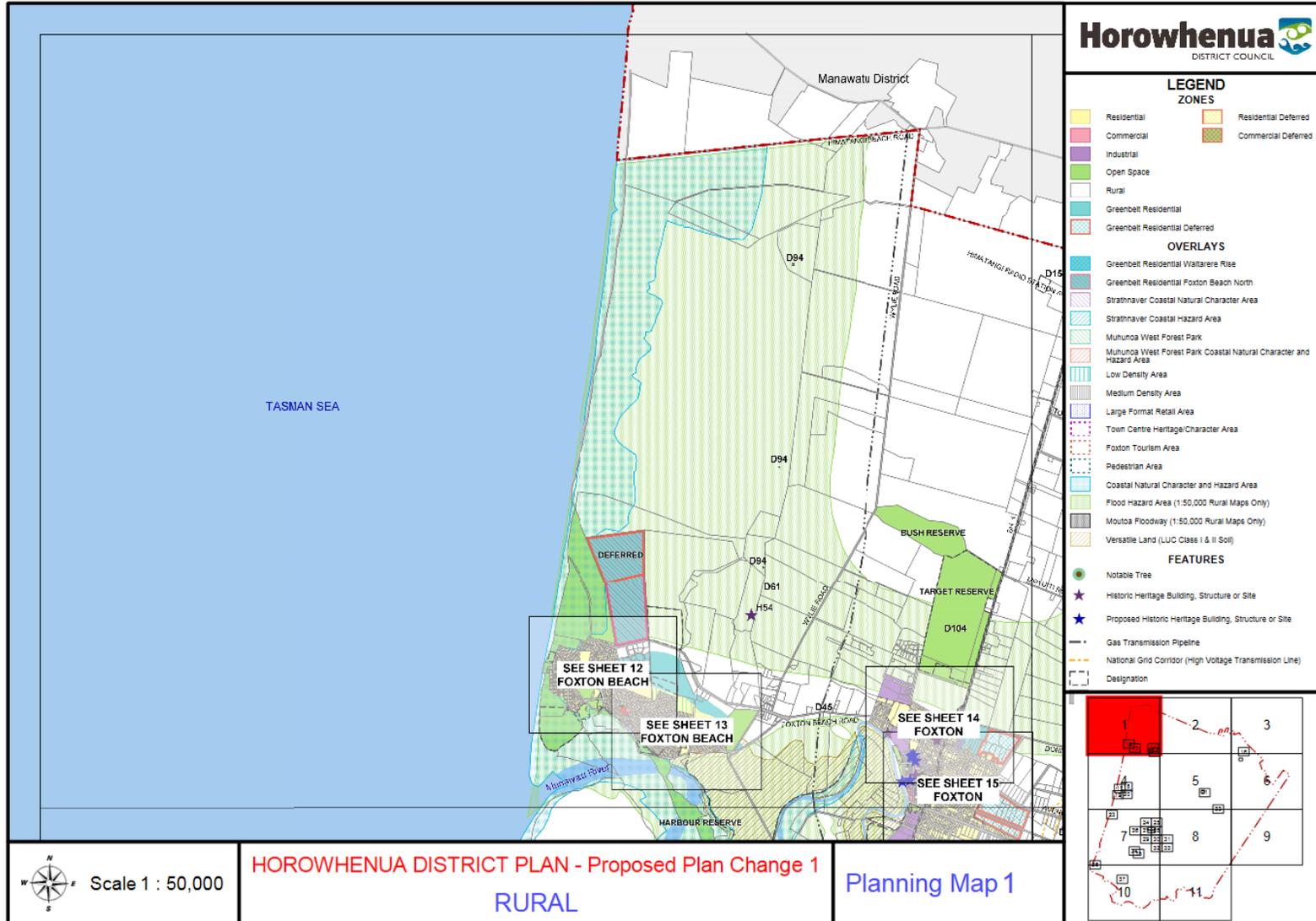
Note 2: This listing only applies to the original Manawatu Herald building constructed circa 1879.

**Historic Heritage Sites (sites and areas that are of national, regional and/or local significance)**

<b>Map</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Legal Description</b>	<b>Heritage New Zealand Category</b>
<u>5</u>	<u>H67</u>	<u>Whitaunui Military Defaulter's Camp</u>	<u>1027 Foxton-Shannon Road, Moutoa</u>	<u>Former Detention Camp for World War Two Objectors</u>	<u>Section 116 Moutoa District</u>	

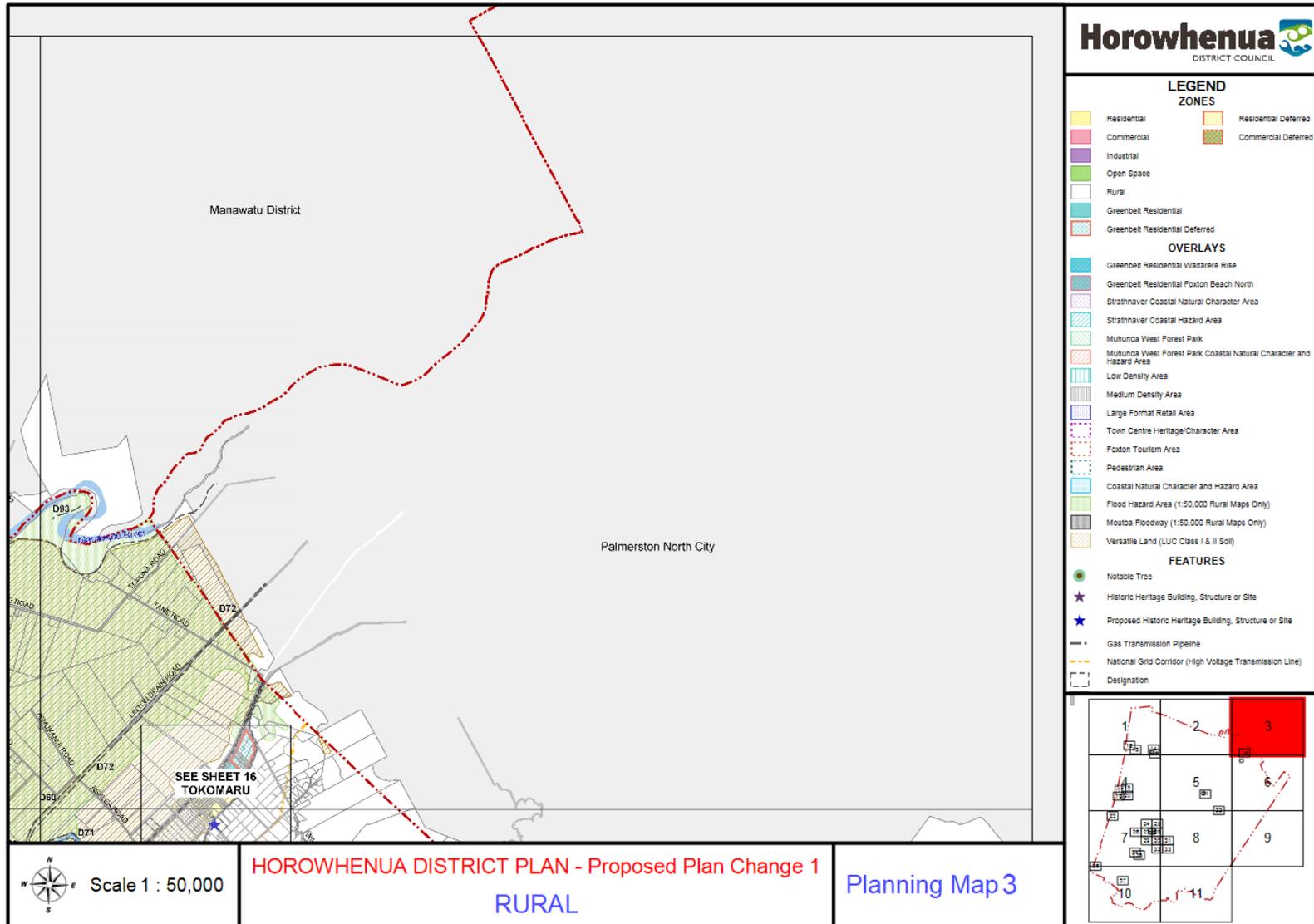
# Appendix 2 – Proposed Amendments to the Planning Maps

## Planning Map 1



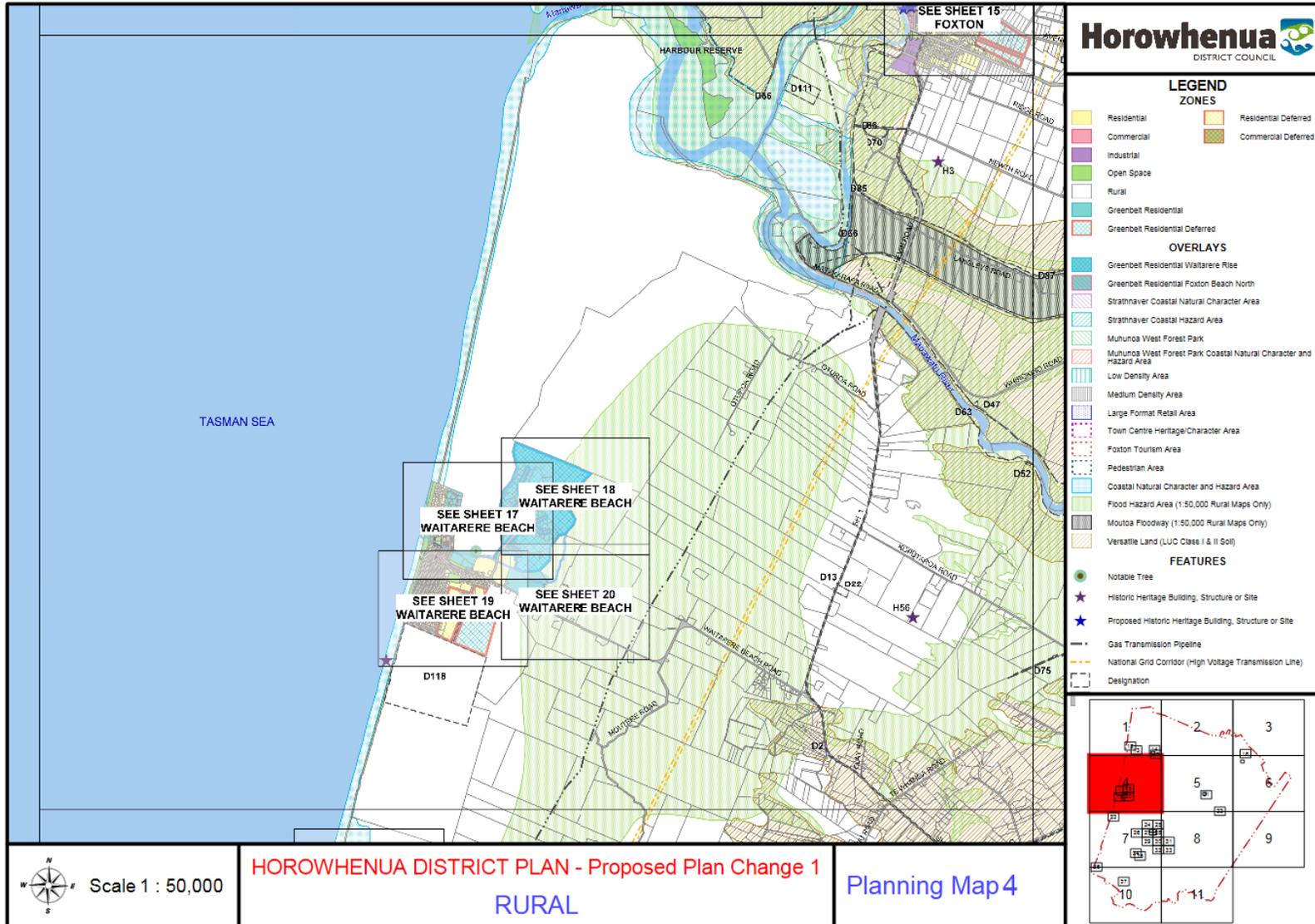
Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 3



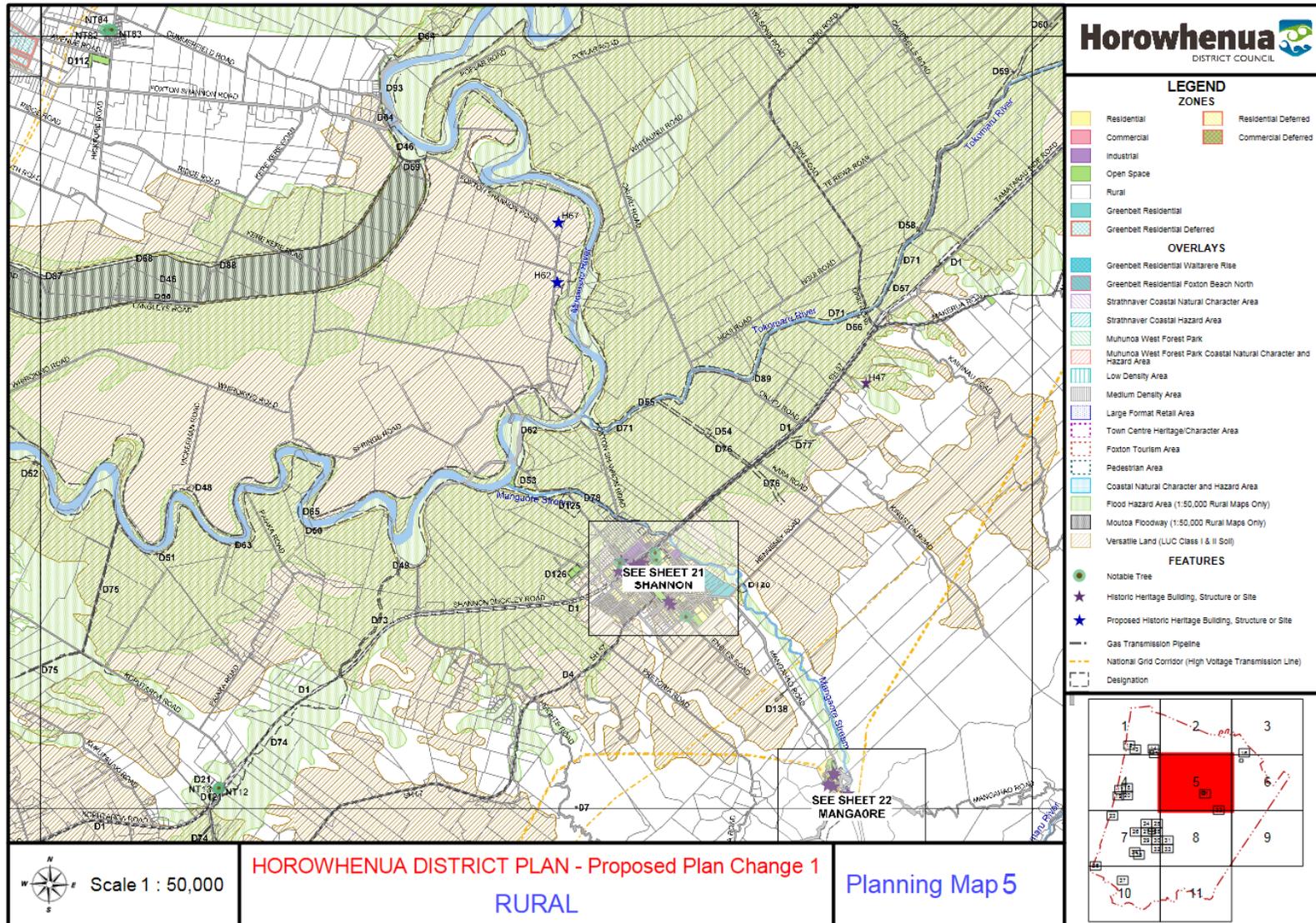
Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 4



Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 5

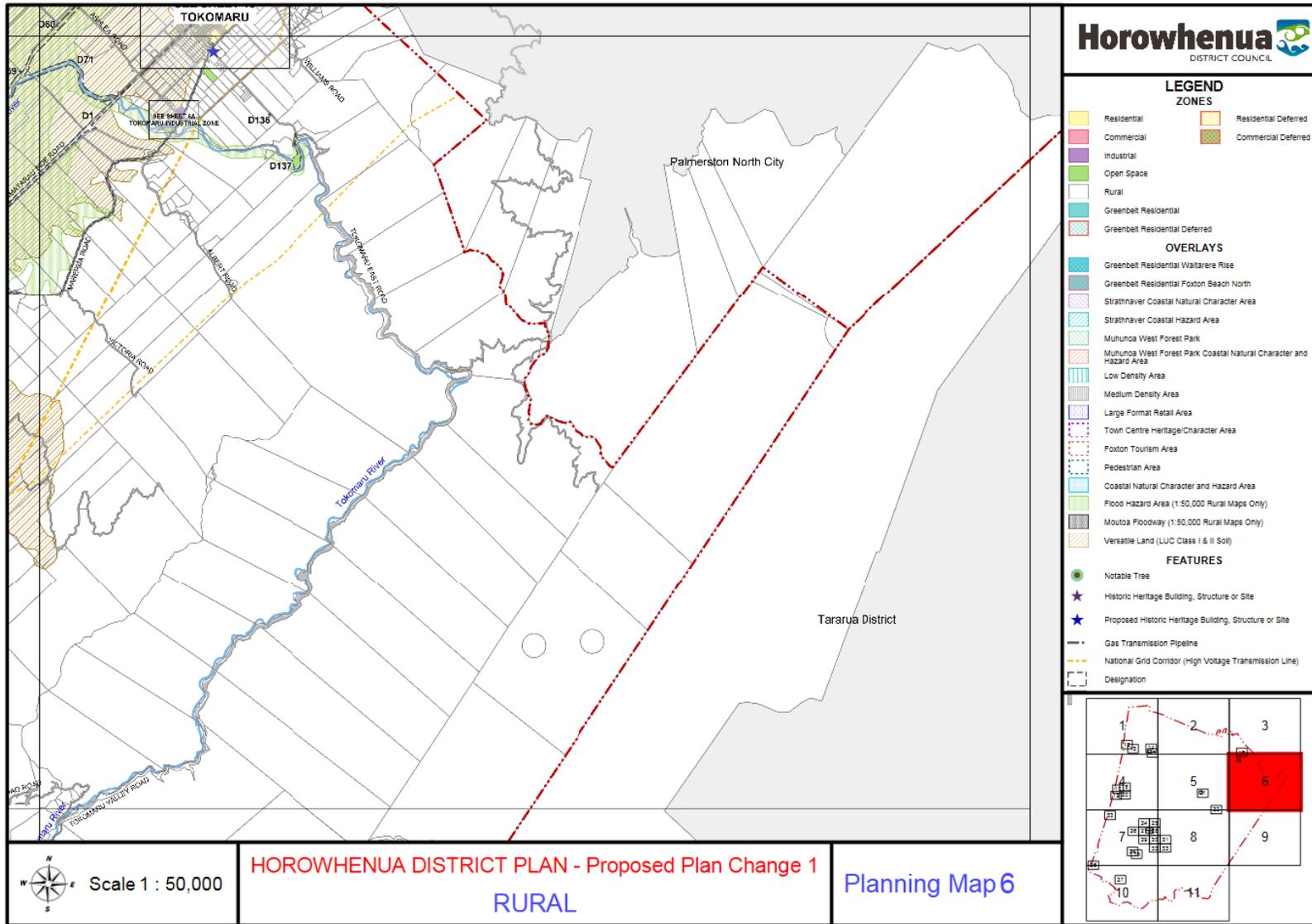


RURAL

Planning Map 5

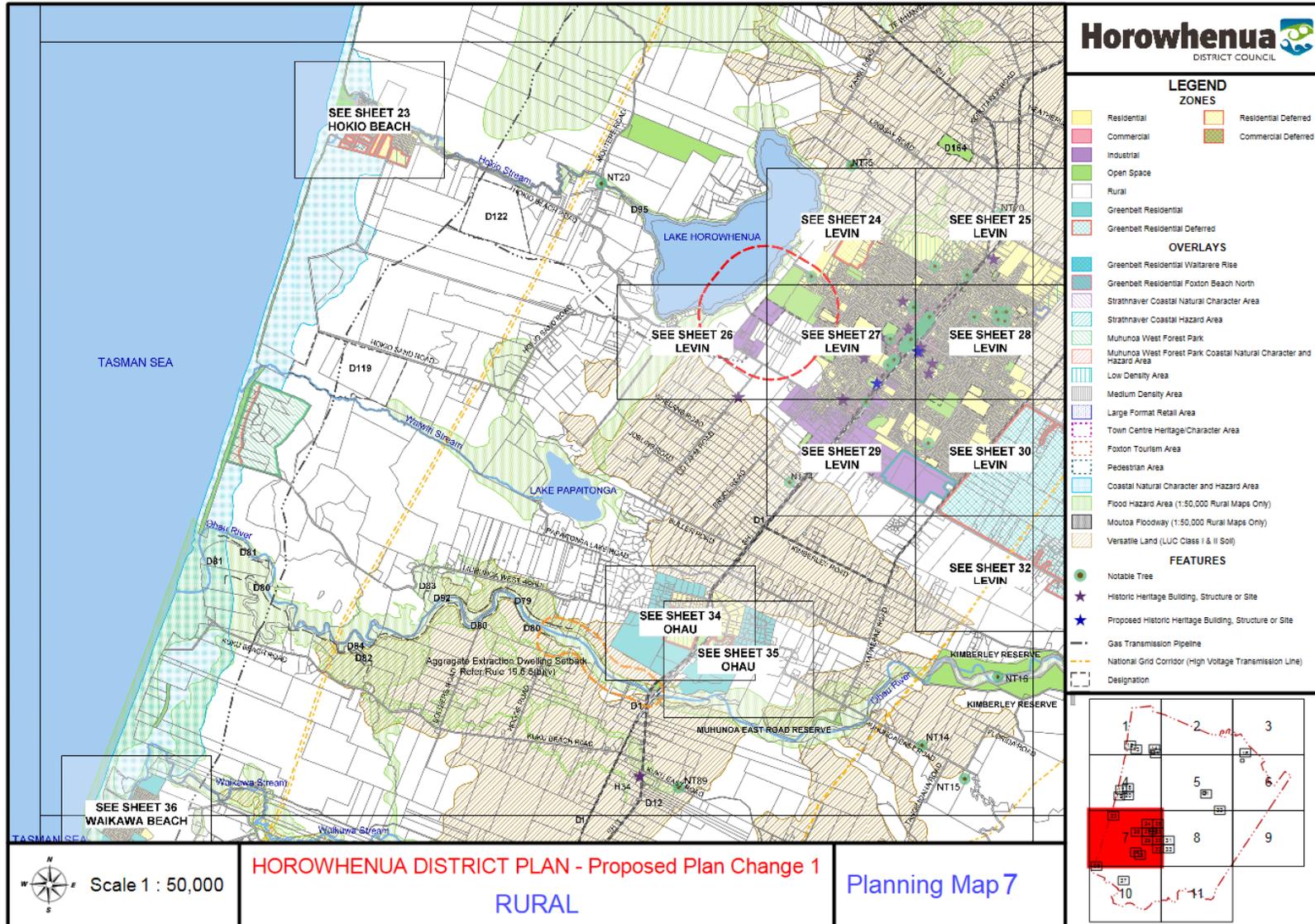
Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 6



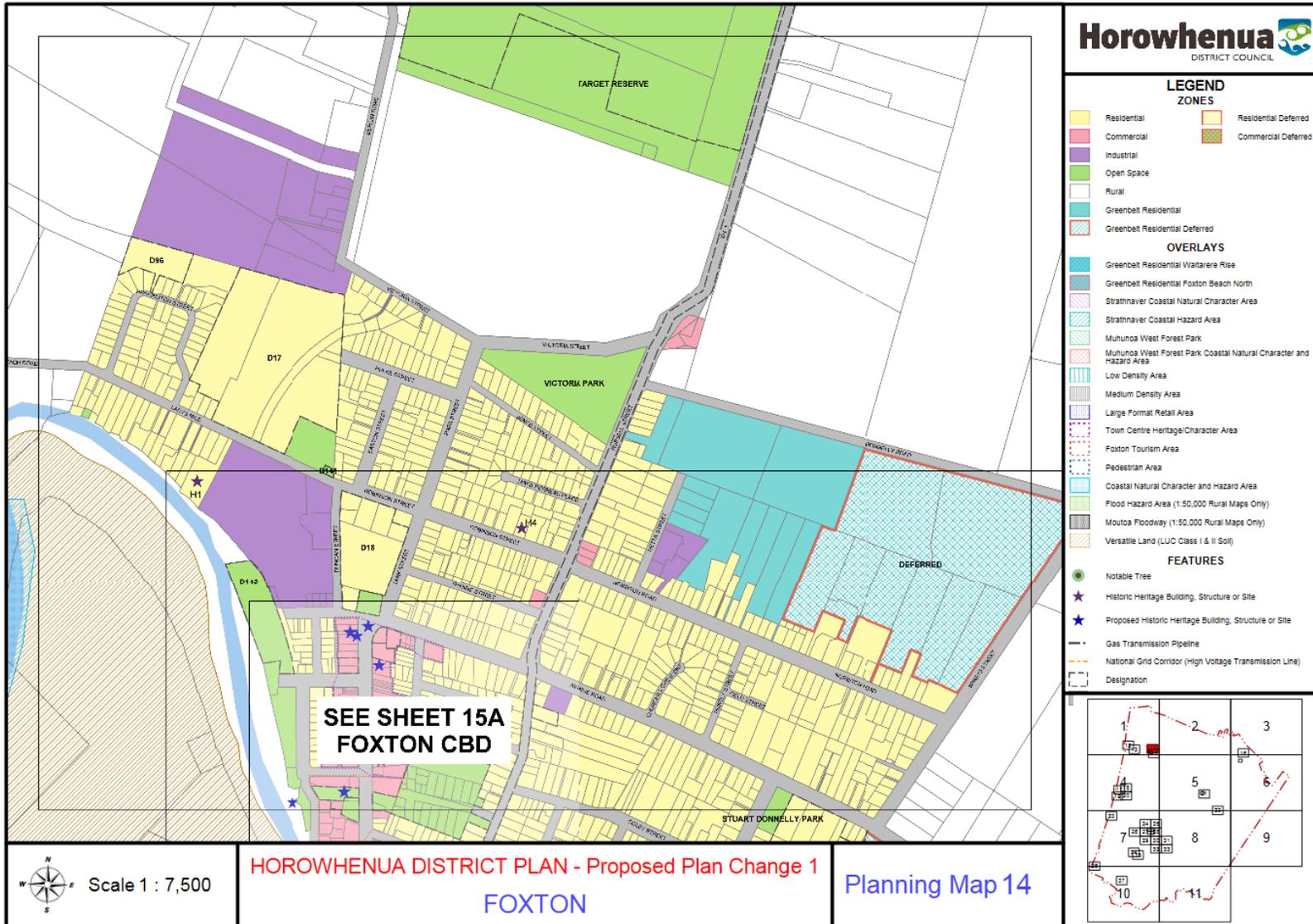
Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 7



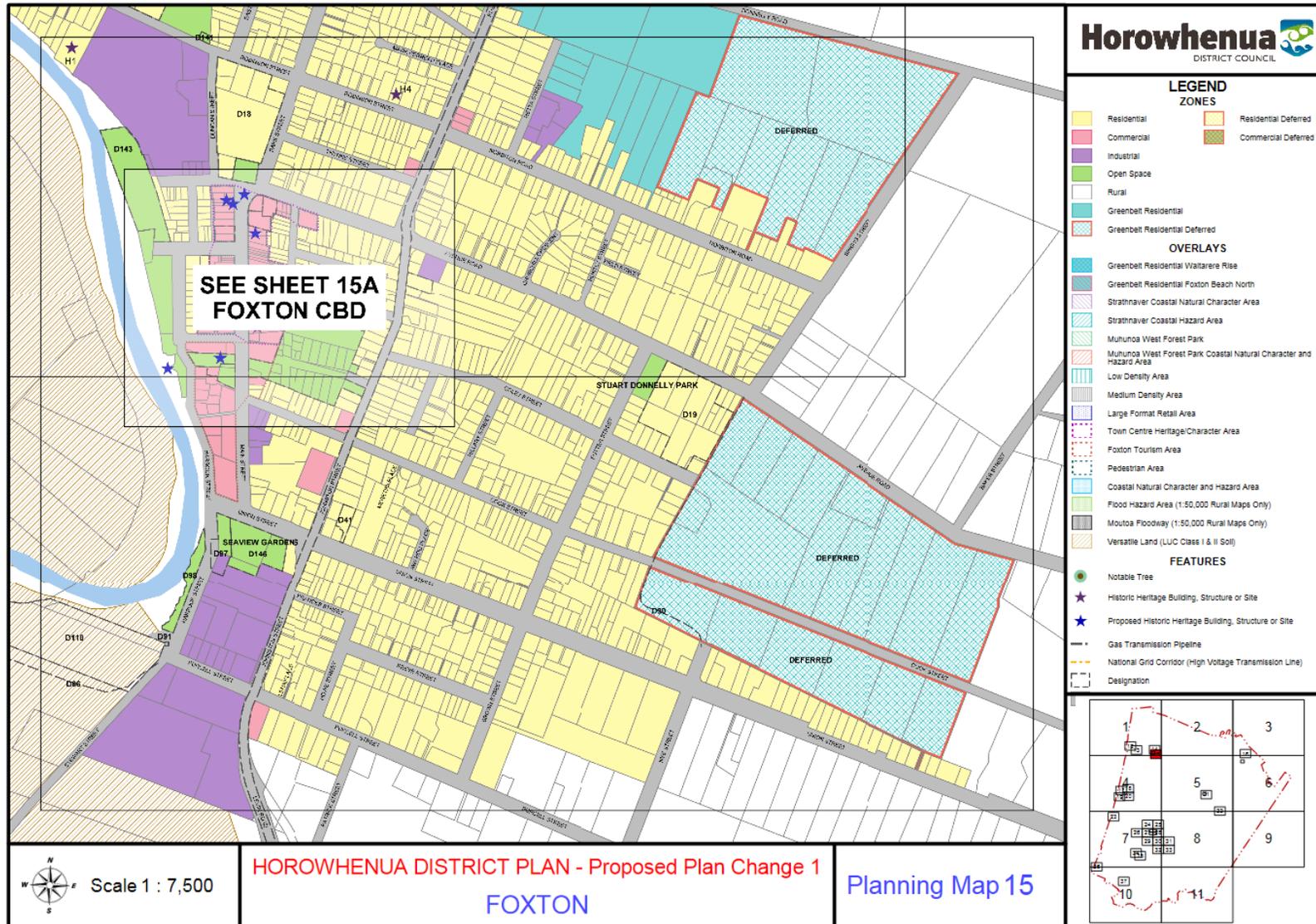
Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 14



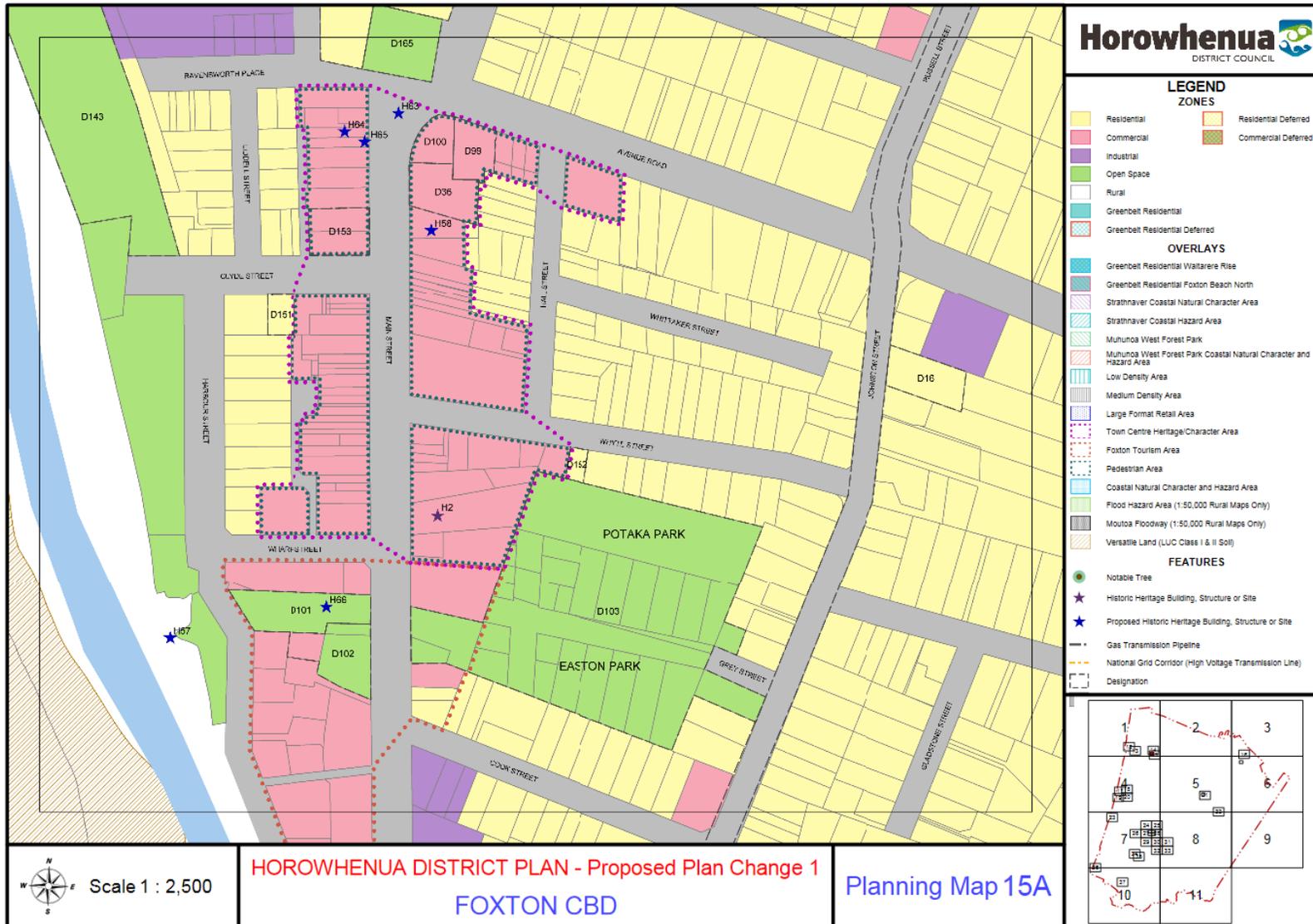
Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 15



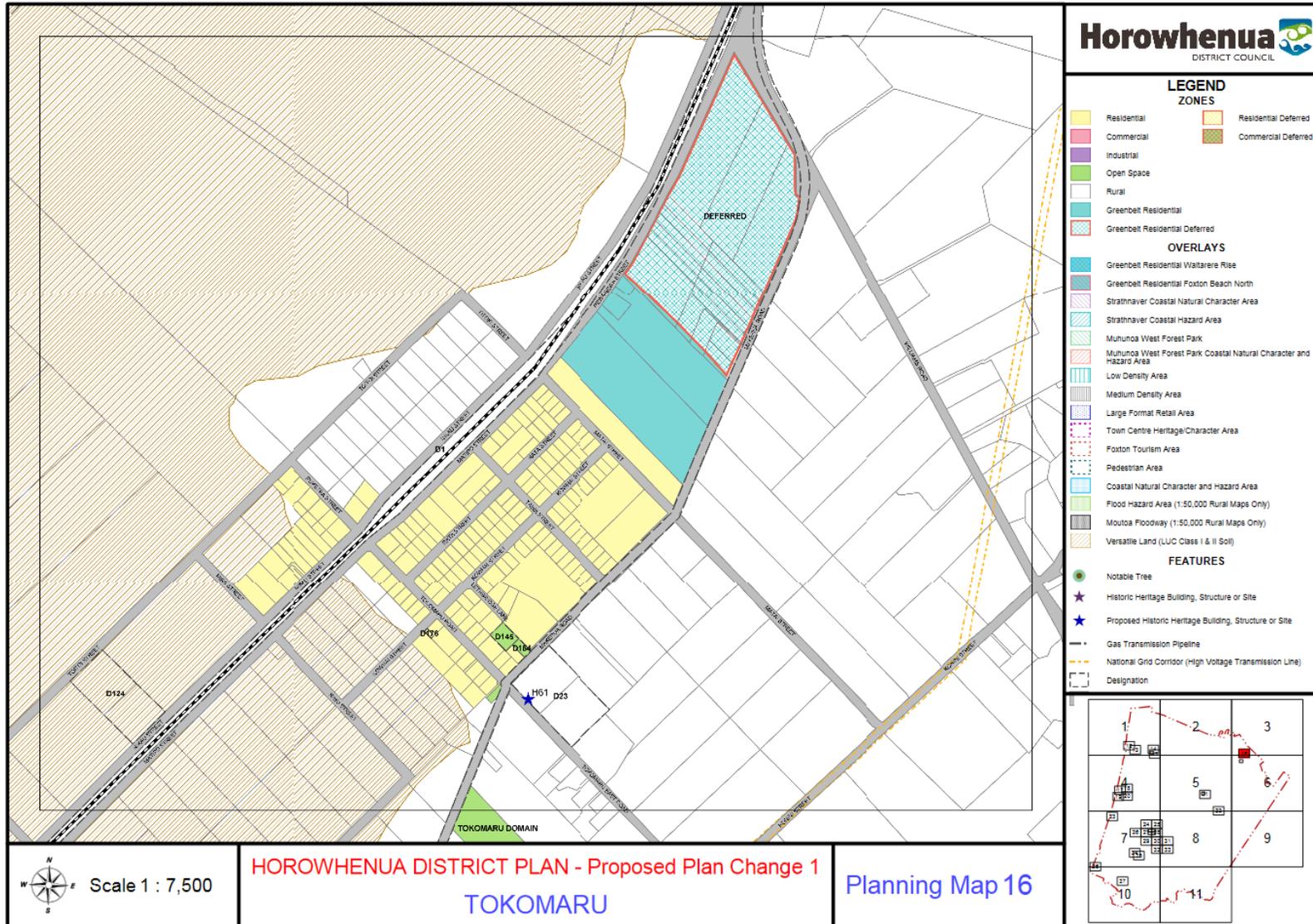
Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 15A



Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)

# Planning Map 16

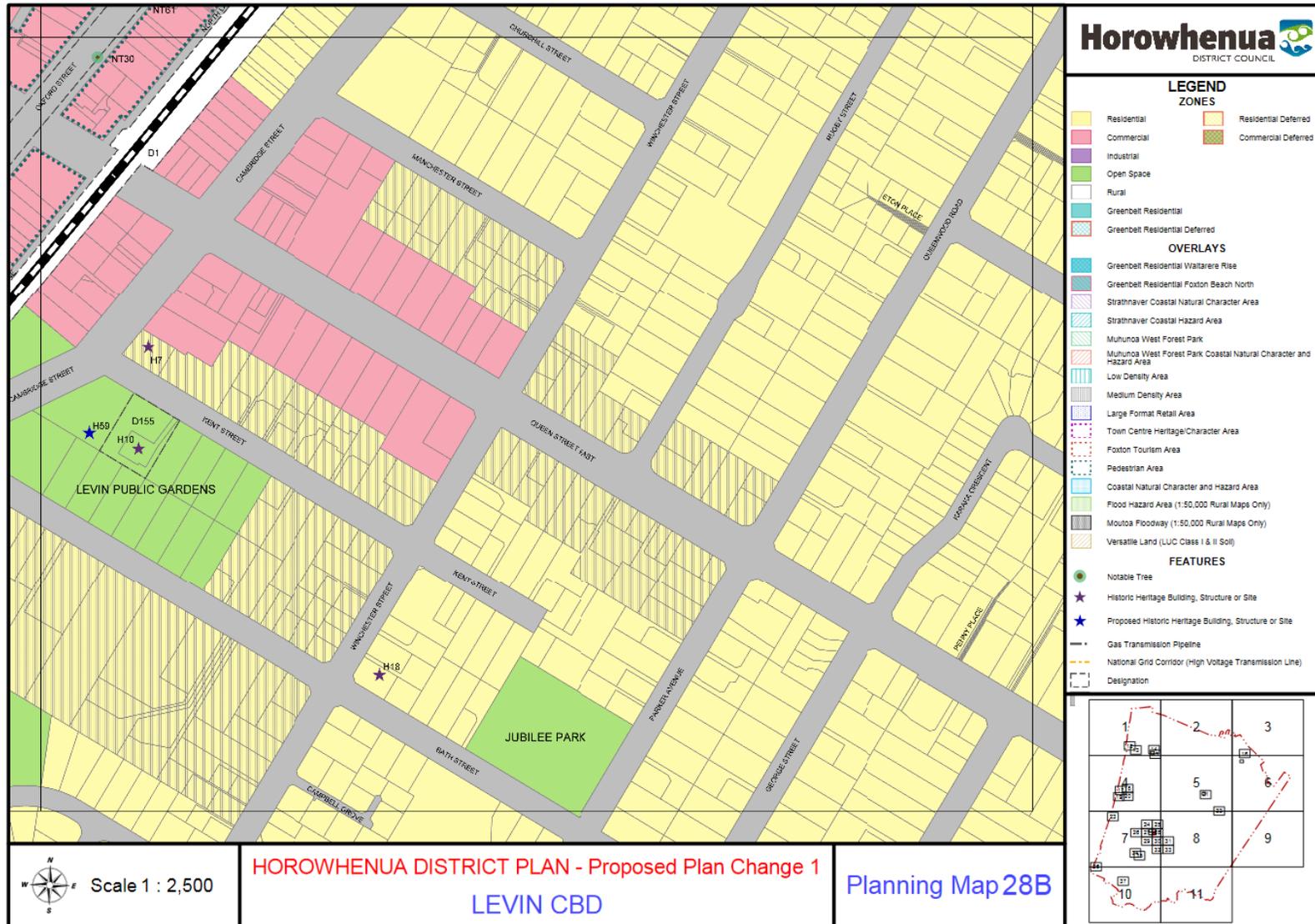


Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)





# Planning Map 28B



Proposed Plan Change 1 (Historic Heritage - Update of Schedule 2 to include additional non-residential buildings, structures and sites and consequential other amendments)



SUPPORTING INFORMATION – PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1  
*Technical Assessments of Buildings, Structures and Sites*

**Assessments prepared by:**  
**IAN BOWMAN**, Architect and Conservator  
and  
**VAL BURR**, Historian

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## Introduction

Horowhenua District Council commissioned the assessment of individual buildings, structures and sites for potential listing in *Schedule 2: Historic Heritage – Buildings, Structures & Sites* of the Horowhenua District Plan 2015.

## ASSESSMENT OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SITES

### Methodology

The buildings, structures and sites covered in this document have been assessed to establish whether they should be proposed for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

The methodology to assess heritage resources was based on a visual survey undertaken by Architect and Conservator, Ian Bowman. The assessments were made on the basis of external viewing of the building, structure or site from the street and no interiors were inspected.

The survey was prepared using a standardized inventory sheet to collect visual data during the inspection. The format of the sheet was based on the International Council on Monuments and sites (ICOMOS) *'Principles for the recording of monuments, groups of buildings and sites'* October 1996. The principal information collected included:

- Name and location of the building, structure or site
- Characteristics of the building, structure or site (e.g. visible materials and architectural style)
- Sources of information
- Date and compiler

The buildings, structures and sites were then assessed in accordance with the criteria outlined in *Chapter 13 Objectives/Policies: Historic Heritage* of the Horowhenua District Plan 2015 as well as the Thematic Framework which was developed to help Council identify any historical influences or

events that are currently not well represented by the features already listed in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

### Research

Historian Val Burr researched primary and secondary records to establish as detailed a history as possible within the time allowed. Documents consulted include certificates of title, Council archives, newspapers, and local, regional and national histories. Areas for research included:

- The history of the site and its development;
- The history of building construction and subsequent alterations and additions;
- The history of significant events and people associated with the building; and
- A brief history of the construction firm, significant trades people, architects and other professionals involved Council archives provided as part of building consent information including plans and specifications as well as consent application documents.

In some instances Val was able to build on work she had undertaken for Horowhenua District Council in 1995/96 when she carried out research on the buildings, structures and sites that are currently listed in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

## STANDARD INVENTORY RECORD

In order to present the historical research and visually identified information, a standardised inventory format was prepared. The sheet is divided into seven main headings as follows:

1. Summary Details
2. Physical and social history
3. Architectural description
4. Statement of significance
5. Recommendation for extent of listing
6. Assessment Summary

## 7. Bibliography

### 1. Summary details

The summary details for each building, structure or site assessed include:

- Photo
- Current owner
- Legal Description
- Certificate of Title
- Construction date
- Architect
- Original owner
- Builder

### 2. Physical and social history

This part of each assessment describes the history of each building, structure or site that has been assessed and was compiled by historian, Val Burr.

### 3. Architectural description

An architectural description for each building, structure or site has been compiled by Ian Bowman. The description is based on visual information and/or Council records (e.g. building permits/consents). The following elements of a building, structure or site are outlined under this part of each assessment:

- Description
- Style
- Setting

## 4. Statement of Significance

Horowhenua District Plan:

Each of the buildings, structures or sites were assessed according to the criteria set out in Chapter 13 of the District Plan in accordance with Objective 13.1.1 and Policies 13.1.2 and 13.1.3.

### Policy 13.1.2

*Identify historic heritage that contributes to an understanding and appreciation of the culture and history of the District, the region and/or New Zealand that is significant in terms of one or more of the following values:*

- *Māori cultural values.*
- *Archaeological values.*
- *Historic values.*
- *Social values.*
- *Setting and group values.*
- *Architectural values.*
- *Scientific and technological values.*

### Policy 13.1.3

*Record significant historic heritage buildings and sites identified in accordance with Policy 13.1.2, and group these buildings and sites according to their relative significance into one of the following categories:*

- *Historic Heritage Group 1 Buildings and Structures: Buildings that have outstanding national and/or regional significance due to their "rarity" and/or level of "integrity".*
- *Historic Heritage Group 2 Buildings and Structures: Buildings that have regional and/or local significance.*
- *Historic Heritage Sites: Places and areas that are of national, regional and/or local significance.*

Thematic Framework:

A Thematic Framework (in the context of being a tool used to develop and evaluate an inventory of heritage features) identifies key themes (and often subthemes) that encapsulate the major development influences of a place or area overtime.

Council’s Thematic Framework was drafted during the development of the Horowhenua Heritage Strategy 2012 and finalised in late-2015, prior to work commencing on the assessment of the buildings, structures and sites.

Council’s Thematic Framework is broken down into three levels: Groups, Themes, and Subthemes. Of the three Groups identified in the Thematic Framework, the ‘Post Contact Group’ and the Themes and Subthemes associated with this Group, were considered to be the most relevant in the assessment of the buildings, structures and sites covered in this document. The Post-Contact Group and associated Themes and Subthemes are listed below:

Group	Theme	Sub-theme
Post-Contact	Early Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bush clearance &amp; sawmilling</li> <li>• Flax industry</li> <li>• Early settlements</li> <li>• Settlement layout</li> </ul>
	Governance/ Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic/government offices</li> <li>• Schools Hospitals</li> <li>• Police stations</li> <li>• Court houses</li> <li>• Post offices</li> <li>• Fire stations</li> </ul>
	Transportation/ Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Railways</li> <li>• Waterways Roads/tracks</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> </ul>
	Agriculture/ Horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market gardening</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Dairying</li> <li>• Forestry</li> </ul>
	Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banks</li> <li>• Offices</li> </ul>

Group	Theme	Sub-theme
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotels</li> <li>• Shops</li> </ul>
	Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flaxmills</li> <li>• Sawmills</li> <li>• Textiles &amp; carpets</li> </ul>
	Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood protection/drainage works</li> <li>• Dams/reservoirs</li> <li>• Bridges</li> <li>• Water towers</li> <li>• Substations/pump stations</li> <li>• Gasworks</li> <li>• Power station</li> </ul>
	Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing type</li> <li>• Subdivision &amp; development patterns</li> </ul>
	Coastal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-1940’s beach settlements</li> <li>• Wrecks</li> </ul>
	Recreation/Public Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sportsgrounds/racetracks</li> <li>• Tracks/tramping huts</li> <li>• Reserves/parks</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> </ul>
	Military/Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWI &amp; WWII defence facilities</li> <li>• ‘Flax’ camps</li> <li>• War memorials</li> </ul>
	Social/Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churches</li> <li>• Museums/art galleries</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Theatres/cinemas</li> <li>• Lodges/clubrooms/halls</li> <li>• Women’s restrooms/Plunket rooms</li> </ul>

**5. Recommendation for extent of listing**

A recommendation has been made for each building, structure and site as to the extent of listing (i.e. whether only part of a building should be listed or whether it should classified as group 1 or 2).

All of the buildings, structures and sites covered in this document have been proposed for inclusion in this schedule as part of Proposed Plan Change 1.

**6. Assessment summary**

The building, structure or site is ranked as to whether each value represented is high, moderate or low, and whether the building, structure or site is significant from a national, regional or local perspective.

The Assessment Summary is presented in table form, as follows:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Level</b>
Historic		Setting/ Group	
Social		Archaeological	
Architectural		Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific			
<b>Significance</b>	National	Regional	Local
<b>Recommended Group</b>			

**7. Bibliography**

A list of the written sources of information for each building, structures or site assessed.

## H57 - The Dolphin



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Horizons Regional Council (?)
<b>Address:</b>	Foxton Loop of the Manawatu River
<b>Legal Description:</b>	No legal description (Manawatu River)
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	No Certificate of Title
<b>Construction date:</b>	Unknown (1910?)
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Unknown
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

Only two items of built heritage survive from Foxton's old river port days. One is the former wharf building that is now used as a bowling club. The other is a sturdy wooden structure known as a 'dolphin' that is standing within the bed of the Foxton Loop of the Manawatu River and close to the former Foxton wharf site.

It is believed that this dolphin was one of two installed in the river at some time prior to 1910. A photo taken around that time shows a pair of dolphins standing parallel to each other in this location. The angle of the two structures in relation to the riverbank appears to have been set to guide passing objects (water, logs, etc.) away from where river launches and flax punts associated with the flax industry, tied up immediately downstream from the structures. Thus the dolphins offered some protection to these vessels while they were docked near Levin & Co's wharf. This photo shows the second river launch to bear the name 'Planet', tied up in this position. This vessel, which like its predecessor was owned by Levin & Co., was launched in about September 1909. It was expected to be operating on the river by December 1909.<sup>1</sup>

While Foxton's dolphins are said to have been installed to deflect floating logs in times of flood, they were also used at times to help departing vessels to manoeuvre around so that they pointed downstream.

<sup>1</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 9 September 1909, p. 5. The 55ft 'Planet II' could accommodate some 80 people. Its more basic predecessor, which was an old vessel, had arrived at Foxton in November 1899. It was destroyed in an arson attack on 9 November 1908 – Ref: *Evening Post*, 9 November 1899, p. 4; *Manawatu Standard*, 10 November 1908, p. 5; also 'Foxton 1888-1988 – Flax Town: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/2376-foxton-1888-1988-flax-town>

**What is a ‘Dolphin’?**

The globalsecurity.org website includes a chapter entitled ‘Waterfronts for ships’, which describes the design and purpose of the dolphin.



Figure 1 This photo shows two dolphins in front of the three vessels, along with the access wall leading out to them. The ‘Planet’ shown in this photo was the second vessel on the river of that name. This vessel was launched in September 1909 and was to be in use on the river in December 1909, providing an earliest possible date for this photo. (Source: Kete Horowhenua: [http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/images/1797-steamers-on-manawatu-river-c1905?view\\_size=large](http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/images/1797-steamers-on-manawatu-river-c1905?view_size=large) )

*“A dolphin is a structure consisting of a number of piles driven into the seabed or river bed in a circular pattern and drawn together with wire rope. It may be used as part of a dock structure or a minor aid to navigation. A dolphin is commonly used when a single pile would not provide the desired strength. These may be either breasting dolphins or mooring dolphins. The breasting dolphins are used to carry the*

*lateral load during vessel impact, transferred through an energy-absorbing fendering system. A breast line is a mooring or dock line extended laterally [ie, abreast] from a vessel to a pier or float, as distinguished from a spring line. A ship may be berthed alongside a number of breasting dolphins or similar pier structures. Mooring or breasting structures are known in the maritime arts for guiding and securing vessels to a fixed location on a body of water for loading, unloading or storage.<sup>2</sup>*

The various uses of dolphins are described on the Globalsecurity.org webpage, ‘Wharf hardware. Fenders & Dolphins’:

- *Dolphins sometimes extend the effective face of a wharf or jetty for mooring. A large cargo ship or tanker can discharge from a small wharf or jetty equipped with dolphins. However, the distance between extreme mooring dolphins must be at least as great as the length of the vessels.*
- *Dolphins may provide offshore moorings for ships worked by lighters. In such cases, they are installed well out of the harbour fairway.*
- *Turning dolphins warp or turn a ship around at the end of a pier.*
- *Dolphins serve as guide walls at ferry slips and at lock entrances.*
- *Dolphins can be used to keep vessels off structures not designed to accommodate their loads.*
- *Dolphins protect bridge piers from waterborne vessels, flood damage, and ice.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>2</sup> ‘Waterfronts for Ships’, Globalsecurity.org:

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/intro/waterfront-ship.htm>

<sup>3</sup> ‘Wharf hardware. Fenders & Dolphins’: Globalsecurity.org:

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/army/fm/5-480/Ch9.htm>

References to the use of dolphins in other locations in New Zealand include; (1) a mishap occurring at “one of the dolphins between the Corporation and Taylor and Watt’s wharves” on the Whanganui River in 1875; (2) tenders called to install a dolphin in Evans Bay in 1886; (3) erecting one above the Lower Gorge Bridge in the Manawatu River in 1887; (4) a vessel almost hitting the “red dolphin” at Bluff in 1909; (5) one with a flashing light on top had been erected in Tauranga Harbour in 1918; (6) three installed at Port Chalmers in 1919; (7) tenders to erect one at Opuia in 1922; (8) removing one at Bluff in 1925; and trialling the new auxilliary schooner ‘Foxton’ near one at Auckland in 1929.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, three dolphins on the Whanganui River were able to be removed to another location upstream. The one that was removed in Bluff Harbour in 1925 had sunk.<sup>5</sup> Thus removing one of Foxton’s two dolphins for whatever reason should have presented little difficulty. A dolphin at Evans Bay is understood to still be in place.<sup>6</sup>

A photo of the single remaining dolphin at Foxton appeared in the *Auckland Weekly News* of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920. Contrasting that photo with the photo of the two dolphins shown with the vessel ‘Planet’ (after 1909), suggests that it is the outer dolphin that survives. These two photos also assist with providing timeframes.

### **The Whirokino Cut**

The dolphin served its purpose to varying extents until the Whirokino Cut diverted the main body of the Manawatu River away from Foxton and left the structure sitting alone in what is now a tidal backwater. The Foxton

<sup>4</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 21 July 1875, p. 2; *Evening Post*, 3 September 1886, p. 3, 8 October 1909, p. 6, 8 March 1919, p. 4, 20 November 1922, p. 12, 7 May 1925, p. 4; *Feilding Star*, 26 November 1887, p. 2; *Dominion*, 30 March 1918, p. 10; *Auckland Star*, 17 August 1929, p. 8

<sup>5</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 2 June 1900, p. 3; *NZ Herald*, 4 May 1925, p. 7; *Evening Post*, 7 May 1925, p. 4

<sup>6</sup> Advice from Ian Bowman, March 2016

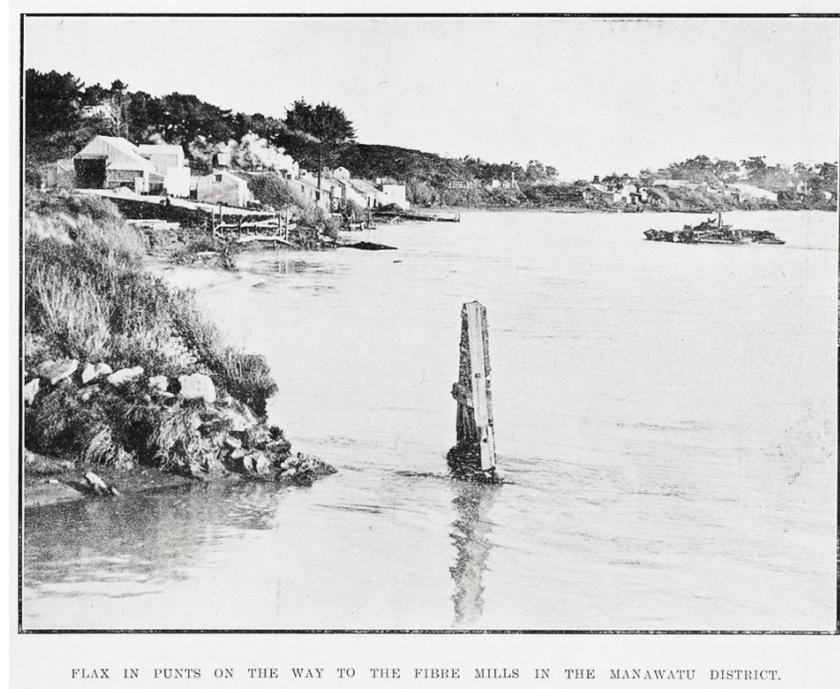


Figure 2 This photo with the dolphin in the foreground, was published in the supplement to the *Auckland Weekly News*, of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920 (p. 37). Note the flax punt being delivered to one of the flaxmills on the waterfront. A lot of flaxmill development appears to have occurred on the river bank since the first (c1910) photo was taken. (Source: <http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/Heritagelimages/index.htm> - Search word: 'Fibre Mills')

Harbour Board had been running at a loss by 1939 and consideration was being given to closing the port.<sup>7</sup> In the background to this were plans in the mid-1930s to construct “a cut and spillway at Whirokino to relieve the flood danger and conserve the interests of the settlers in that portion of the district.” While there had been various proposals in the past, this 1935 proposal had been to “construct a spillway to carry the water when the

<sup>7</sup> *Evening Post*, 2 August 1939, p. 18

river was in flood.”<sup>8</sup> By mid-1940, the proposal had become: “*The Whirokino cut (was to) straighten out the Manawatu River to the sea at Foxton, cutting a six-mile course down to about a mile.*”<sup>9</sup> About a week later it was reported that the proposal to finance the Whirokino cut had been accepted and work was to commence within a year. “*The cut will shorten the river near the township of Foxton by five and a half miles.*”<sup>10</sup> By September 1941, other planned flood control work on the river, combined with the cost of the cut itself, had been estimated at £97,000 and this would shorten the river by 11 and a half miles.<sup>11</sup>

It was apparently on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1944 that problems with the opening up of the Whirokino Cut occurred. On that date, a portion of the river bank that had been left to hold back the river, gave way and water poured into the excavation. The power shovel doing the work was completely covered with water and a Wellington Harbour Board diver had to be brought in to help recover that, and also other submerged equipment. Then on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, a bank collapsed on a worker and he was duly hospitalised. After a week, the situation was described as follows: “*The cut is almost complete, only a gullet of about eight chains remaining in the middle.*”<sup>12</sup> In late October 1945, another flood took the matter further. “*The fact that the river cut at Whirokino has now developed strongly may cause the savage flow of water through this, to widen it still further.*”<sup>13</sup>

Meanwhile, by 1942, Foxton had ceased to function as a port with the last vessel to use the port, the ‘*Hokitika*’, having been sold in October 1941. In

late 1951, the old railway wharf was sold for removal. Then on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1956, the Foxton Harbour Board was abolished.<sup>14</sup> The dolphin had therefore lost its purpose by 1942 and then in 1944 it also lost its river.

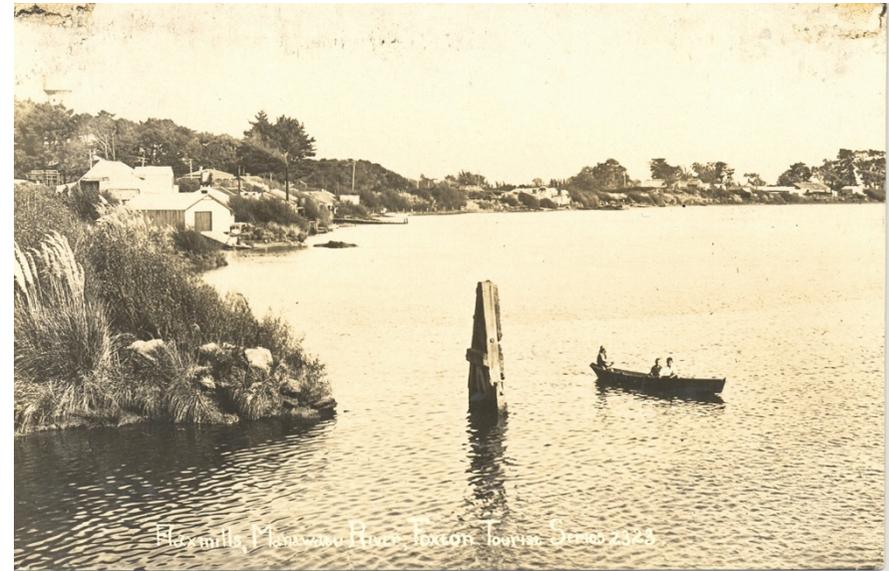


Figure 3 This photo of the dolphin, which is thought to have been taken in the 1920s, shows a markedly later scene than the 1920 *Auckland Weekly News* photo shown above. For example, the trees in the distance have grown significantly, and the foliage in the foreground has matured. However, at least two of the flaxmills still have smoke coming from their smokestacks. (Source: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/site/images/show/8914-foxton-flaxmills-c1920s> )

### Recent Preservation

In 2013, the Foxton Historical Society applied to Horizons Regional Council for a Land Use Consent to pour concrete at the base of the dolphin, in order to stabilise it at times of high water flow. The concrete-

<sup>8</sup> *Evening Post*, 9 October 1935, p. 12 (Note that this is a detailed report on a deputation to the Minister of Public Works by representatives of Manawatu’s various local bodies.)

<sup>9</sup> *Evening Post*, 13 July 1940, p. 13

<sup>10</sup> *Evening Post*, 26 July 1940, p. 4

<sup>11</sup> *Evening Post*, 5 September 1941, p. 6

<sup>12</sup> *Evening Post*, 1 April 1944, p. 6

<sup>13</sup> *Evening Post*, 29 October 1945, p. 8

<sup>14</sup> A.N. Hunt, *Foxton 1888-1988: The First 100 years* (Foxton, 1987), p. 93

work was expected to be undertaken over two days between tides. The Consent was duly granted on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013, with the effect of the work on the water quality being required by Horizons to be “no more than minor”.<sup>15</sup>

The work was then undertaken by Roaches Concrete Products, with the aid of grants from the Eastern & Central Community Trust and the Endeavour Trust.<sup>16</sup>

Foxton historian, Tony Hunt, advises that traces of the stone wall that once led out to the dolphin are still present, but that these remains have now sunk below the waterline. This therefore gives the dolphin the appearance of having been further from the river bank than it was a century ago when in use. Furthermore, the whole structure appears now to be much lower than it originally was; assuming that the crossbar now just above the concrete block is the same upper crossbar visible in all three older photos.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The dolphin is a timber structure comprising two vertical timber posts with raking braces in the form of a buttress set into a concrete pad. The timber elements are connected with wrought iron straps and bolts.

### Setting

The dolphin is located within the Foxton Loop of the Manawatu River, to the west of Harbour Street. De Molen is located to the east of the dolphin and the Foxton Water Tower is visible to the south east. The former wharf

shed and various remains from flaxmills are located along the river bank to the east.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This dolphin has high **regional** significance demonstrating high **historical**, **technological** and moderate **setting** values.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework the Dolphin is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following themes and subthemes:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early settlement</li> <li>• Transportation/communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flax Industry</li> <li>• Waterways</li> </ul>

### Values

The structure has high **historic** values in its association with the Manawatu River, an important shipping route in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the Foxton Harbour Board (FHB) which built and managed port facilities at Foxton. It was established in 1877 and disestablished in 1956. The Manawatu River was used extensively for transporting people and goods by ship, particularly flax, one of the most important industries of the period between the 1870s and 1940 with Foxton being the major port.

The structure has high **technology** values as one of the only known surviving river dolphin in New Zealand. It was used to protect Foxton’s wharves and to guide shipping in a particularly difficult area of the river.

The dolphin has moderate **setting** values as one of several elements along the river bank at Foxton including the former wharf shed and flaxmill remains from the period when the Manawatu River was used for shipping.

<sup>15</sup> Documents relating to ‘Land Use Consent – Bed Disturbance 106788’, dated 28 August 2013, Horizons Regional Council

<sup>16</sup> ‘Relics of Yesterday in Foxton’, *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 25 October 2013, p. 16: [https://issuu.com/the\\_star/docs/713298hc/16](https://issuu.com/the_star/docs/713298hc/16)

**Measure**

The dolphin has high low **authenticity** and high **integrity**. It has high **rarity** as one of a few dolphins surviving in New Zealand and likely to be the only river dolphin.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING**

It is recommended that the dolphin is listed as a Group 1 structure in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	M
Social		Archaeological	*
Architectural		Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	H		
<b>Significance</b>	National	<b>Regional</b>	Local
<b>Recommended Group</b>		<b>1</b>	

\* An archaeological investigation has not been undertaken as part of the assessment of this structure; it is possible that it may have archaeological values given that the wharf area is associated with pre-1900 human activity.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Horizons Regional Council: Land Use Consent – Bed Disturbance 106788

Hunt, A.N., *Foxton 1888-1988: The first 100 years* (Foxton, 1987)

Online Sources including: Papers Past (*Auckland Star, Dominion, Evening Post, Feilding Star, Manawatu Herald, Manawatu Standard, Manawatu Times, NZ Herald, Wanganui Herald*). Also other online media (<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/HeritageImages/index.htm> : *Auckland Weekly News* – search-word: 'Fibre Mills'; Globalsecurity.org; Horowhenua Chronicle; Kete Horowhenua (as per footnotes)

Also a conversation with Foxton Historian, Tony Hunt.

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H58 - Former Foxton Presbyterian Church



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Foxton Little Theatre Society Inc.
<b>Address:</b>	5 Main Street, Foxton
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Lot 1 DP 33751 and Lot DP 459341
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	600320
<b>Construction date:</b>	1867
<b>Architect:</b>	George Nye
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Presbyterian Church Trustees (after construction)
<b>Builder:</b>	Messrs Nye & Cameron

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The old church that is now the Foxton Little Theatre was built in 1867 at the instigation of Presbyterian minister, the Rev. James Duncan. Its architect was George Nye, a well-known Foxton building contractor of the period. Nye built the church in partnership with a Mr Cameron, who was almost certainly Foxton building contractor Thomas Cameron. The church is believed to be the oldest surviving building in the Manawatu;<sup>17</sup> followed by 'Te Rangimarie', the Rangitane meetinghouse/church at Rangiotu, which was built the following year.<sup>18</sup> The old church is likely to hold a similar status in Horowhenua District.

As Foxton's Presbyterian Church was the town's only church until 1876 when the All Saints Anglican Church was built, Duncan's services had been attended by all sections of the community, regardless of creed.<sup>19</sup> The Anglicans were also permitted to hold regular services in the church until they built their own church.<sup>20</sup> Duncan's ministry was, however, noted for the particularly bad relationship that he developed with his competitor for the hearts and minds of the district's potential Maori converts, the Anglican missionary, the Rev. Hadfield.<sup>21</sup>

The Foxton Little Theatre is also certain to be the only verifiable building in the Foxton area to survive from the period of terror in the wider Manawatu

<sup>17</sup> Letter dated 17 May 1995, Manawatu Branch Committee, NZ Historic Places Trust, to Daphne Hunt, Foxton Little Theatre. (File: 14-0026, former Manawatu Branch Committee of NZ Historic Places Trust, c/- Te Manawa, Palmerston North) This information was also conveyed to me by the late Ian Matheson, PN City Archivist and historian, who had obtained a wide knowledge of these things - VB

<sup>18</sup> M.H. Durie, 'Te Rangiotu Hoani Meihana' in *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, Vol. 1, 1769-1869 (Wellington, 1990), p. 496; Also: Maren Dixon & Ngaire Watson (eds.), *A History of Rangiotu* (Palmerston North, 1983), p. 18

<sup>19</sup> *Feilding Star*, 3 January 1908, p. 3; *Evening Post*, 20 March 1930, p. 11

<sup>20</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 26 November 1929, in Foxton Presbyterian Church Session Minute Book, p. 7, Series 2, Vol. 1: PN Community Archive, Ian Matheson City Archives, Palmerston North Library

<sup>21</sup> Marjorie Mitchell, 'Rev. James Duncan' in *Pioneers of Foxton, Book One* (Foxton Historical Society, 1988), p. 18

District in late November-December 1868. At this time it was believed that Te Kooti was en route to the Manawatu; fresh from many killings in Poverty Bay, followed by more killings on his journey down through Hawkes Bay. It is also near-certain that the building will have been used in some capacity in relation to the crisis during this time, possibly as temporary accommodation for the people from outlying areas who had rushed to the township for a degree of safety.

### **The Time before the Church**

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 1930, at the time of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbyterian denomination's arrival in the district, the *Evening Post* published an account of Duncan's early years in Manawatu and Te Awahou (the village that in 1866 became Foxton). The article recorded that it was "eighty-five years ago next month" that Duncan had first arrived at the future site of Foxton, where he conducted a series of services and gatherings. He and his family had arrived in Wellington in April 1843<sup>22</sup>, with Duncan having been sent to New Zealand as a missionary for the Maori, by the Scottish Reformed Presbyterian Church. He then spent about fifteen months learning the Maori language, while also ministering to a small congregation in Wellington that subsequently became St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. In mid-1844<sup>23</sup>, he and the newly arrived Rev. John Inglis came to the Manawatu District,

*"which was thickly populated by Maoris, only to find, after some months' labour, that the mission work had been adequately arranged by the Anglican and Methodist Churches."* The Rev. Inglis had then departed, leaving Duncan remaining to "minister to the scattered settlements and isolated homes in a district extending from Otaki in the south to Wanganui River in the north. Having secured a house in

*the little town of Te Awahou, as Foxton was then called, he brought his wife and family from Wellington."*<sup>24</sup>

The article then described Mrs Duncan's difficult journey to Te Awahou, before returning to the eventual establishment of the church itself:

*"An old Maori meeting house which stood on what is now the Triangle in Main Street, was lent to Mr Duncan to hold services in, and this was the first building devoted to divine service in Foxton... Somewhere about the year 1854 or 55 the Maori meeting house was blown down in a storm, and Mr Duncan decided to, as he said, 'Build a House of God in the town of Foxton.'<sup>25</sup> The present church was then erected largely at his own expense, and for a number of years was used as a place of worship by Anglicans as well as Presbyterians."<sup>26</sup>*

If the timing of the collapse of the meetinghouse is correct, then around twelve years passed between that event and the construction of this church. However, in 1857, Duncan became the local school teacher in the town's newly-built school which was a position he held until 1866.<sup>27</sup> The school building was thus also used for church services and J.T. Stewart recorded the words "School and Chapel" in that location on a map he drew of the settlement in 1858.<sup>28</sup>

After working with local Maori since 1844, Duncan had begun working with the settlers at Te Awahou (Foxton) in 1861. This had been partly influenced by some local Maori moving away from the area and partly

<sup>22</sup> NZ Gazette & Wellington Spectator, 8 April 1843, p. 2, which announced Duncan's pending arrival aboard the 'Phoebe', but did not name him. Also: Mitchell, p. 17

<sup>23</sup> Mitchell, p. 17

<sup>24</sup> *Evening Post*, 20 March 1930, p. 11

<sup>25</sup> The town was still called Te Awahou at that time however.

<sup>26</sup> *Evening Post*, 20 March 1930, p. 11

<sup>27</sup> Mitchell, p. 18

<sup>28</sup> A.N. (Tony) Hunt, *Foxton 1888-1988: The First 100 Years* (Foxton, 1987), pp.18-19

because European settlers and their families were now moving into the area. The area he covered included Rangitikei, Parawanui and Bulls.<sup>29</sup>

### Construction of the Church

There are a few newspaper reports on the earliest days of this church. For example, a Manawatu correspondent wrote to the *Wellington Independent* of 31<sup>st</sup> October 1867 (p. 4):

*“There are some very pretty buildings in the course of erection here. The new church will be open for service on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. It is a neat and well finished building, about 50 feet by 25 feet, 21 feet high to the ceiling, which, with the sides etc. is lined with seasoned totara planed and grooved, and when polished, will look very pretty. The pulpit is placed in the east, which shows that the architect, Mr Cameron, is a perfect master of the craft. Messrs Nye and Cameron are the contractors and builders, and their work does them credit, and adds to the appearance of Foxton...”*

The *Wellington Independent* of 7<sup>th</sup> November 1867 (p. 4) saw the Manawatu correspondent make a quick correction to the above:

*“In my letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> October, I stated that Mr Cameron was the architect of the new church here, having been led to believe this as correct from plans I was shown, and from a party who I thought I could rely upon. Since then I have learned that Mr George Nye was the architect, as it was he that drew the plans and specifications, and in justice to that gentleman, I trust that you will give this publicity. And may I add that since the building was commenced, Mr Nye has been most attentive to his duties, being at his post early and late, although having to cross the river and ride a distance of five miles morning and*

*night. May the little church stand long as a monument to Mr Nye’s memory, when he and the writer of this have passed away. There is a meeting called for Saturday next, when the Rev Mr Duncan will lay a financial statement of the building before the public.”*



Figure 4 This photo shows the Foxton Presbyterian Church (clearly identified by its belfry) in its early setting as a dominant feature of the town. Whanganui photographer, W.J. Harding almost certainly took this photo in late March or early April 1878.<sup>1</sup> The *Manawatu Times* of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1878 (p. 2) describes Harding’s new photo collection, stating that one of the photos was a “View from the Maori Cemetery, looking down main street.”

The little cart that is almost out of sight behind foliage in the above photo appears in other of Harding’s photos, where it is identified as Harding’s darkroom cart. An article on the history of the Foxton Presbyterian Church that was published in the *Manawatu Herald* of 26<sup>th</sup> November 1929, recorded that “The Maoris provided (Rev. Duncan) with a place of worship near what is now known as Ihakara Gardens, then occupied as a pah, at the rear of which was the burial grounds. In the course of time the building was destroyed by the elements, and the Rev Jas Duncan purchased the section upon which he erected the front portion of the present church.”<sup>1</sup> This original meetinghouse where Duncan once held his meetings, is likely to have been somewhere on the grassed area behind where the people are standing. The graves shown in this photo are no longer marked. (Source: Harding, William James, 1826-1899: Negatives of Wanganui district. Ref: 1/1-000333-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/23209146>

<sup>29</sup> Mitchell, p. 18: ‘Duncan, Rev. James’ in ‘Register of New Zealand Presbyterian Church: Ministers, Deaconesses & Missionaries from 1840: Dow to Dyson’: <http://www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/Page159.htm>

The same edition of the newspaper reported that the Rev. J. Hall was to have left Wellington by coach that morning bound for Manawatu, to assist with the opening of the new Presbyterian Church there “on Sunday next.”<sup>30</sup>

On 14<sup>th</sup> November 1867 (p. 4), the *Wellington Independent* published an extensive article on the opening event:

**MANAWATU**

(From our own correspondent), Foxton, November 11

“On Saturday last according to notice a public meeting was held in the New Church to hear the Rev Mr Duncan’s financial statement. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer. The Rev Mr Duncan after reading the second chapter, *Second Book of Chronicles*, gave the following statement of expenditure and receipts:

“COST OF BUILDING, etc.

Timber	143-6-7	
Windows	18-5-3	
Shingles	18-16-3	
Sundries, etc.	<u>29-18-11</u>	
		£210-7-0
Contractors	105-0-0	
Do <sup>31</sup> ceiling	22-8-8	
Do pulpit, etc.	10-0-0	
Other work	3-0-0	
Painting, fencing, gate etc.	<u>46-8-0</u>	
		£188-16-8
		£399-3-8

There would be other incidental expenses

<sup>30</sup> *Wellington Independent*, 7 November 1867, p. 4

<sup>31</sup> “Do” means ‘ditto’

amounting to: 0-16-4  
£400-0-0

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions:  
Manawatu district 140-0-0  
Wellington do 102-0-0  
Auckland, Nelson, and  
other places, about 57-0-0  
£299-0-0  
Balance £108-0-0

“Audited by Mr Stewart and found correct.

“The reverend gentleman stated that there would be two services next day, being the Sabbath, when collections would be made, which he trusted would greatly make up the deficiency. It was usual to have a building committee appointed to do the work that he had done; he first gave the land for the church, and after collecting what he could in the district he applied to other districts for aid, and the application was willing(ly) responded to. Mr Duncan passed a high encomium on the builders, Messrs Nye and Cameron, for the very creditable manner in which they had done their work, and said they deserved a vote of thanks. Trust deeds would be made out shortly, and the building handed over to the trustees of the Presbytery; and he would be called away on duty to preach every second Sabbath he said that he should feel happy in giving the use of the church to any Evangelical (sic) Minister of the Gospel, who made application for it. The reverend gentleman then implored the blessing of the Almighty on every clergyman who might address the people from that place, and trusted that the words they heard in that house might prove a blessing to the souls of the hearers.

“The children then sang hymns.

*“The Rev J. Hall, from Wellington, next addressed the meeting. He said that it afforded him the great happiness to be present on the occasion, and was pleased to see so many of the fair sex, as it was not usual in New Zealand to see them outnumbering the gentleman, but regretted that they did not make it a bread and butter party, as if the ladies were handing round the tea, it would look more like a social gathering. Nothing gave him more pleasure than to see so many natives present, worshipping together with their white brethren the same God, and Father of all. He had not been prepared to see such a fine building in the place, and thought it was got up cheap and well, and all that had a hand in it deserved credit.*”

*“The children sang several pieces and the dismissal. The Rev Mr Duncan pronounced the Benediction, after which the meeting broke up.*

*“Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> – There were two services in the church this day, at 11am, and 6:30pm. Rev J. Hall assisted. There were collections made in the morning and afternoon, amounting to £11 6s. The weather was very unfavourable, which prevented a good many from attending, and consequently the collections did not amount to the sum expected.”*

### **Foxton under Siege**

The latter part of 1868 included the escape of Te Kooti and 163 men, 64 women and 71 children from the Chatham Islands aboard the captured ship ‘Rifleman.’

They disembarked at Poverty Bay and thereafter a range of confrontations occurred. On 10<sup>th</sup> November 1868, about 54 people (including over 20 Maori) were killed when Te Kooti’s force attacked Matawhero. Te Kooti then ordered the execution of some prisoners, including women and children, and more deaths followed, with women and children being considered by him to be appropriate targets for attack. On 17<sup>th</sup> November he began to withdraw from Poverty Bay (which he now controlled), as Ngati Kahungunu and Ngati Porou were preparing their forces against him.

By 22<sup>nd</sup> November they were at Makaretu in Central Hawkes Bay, where the next day they were besieged, but ultimately escaped northward again. However, that news did not reach the Manawatu for a while.

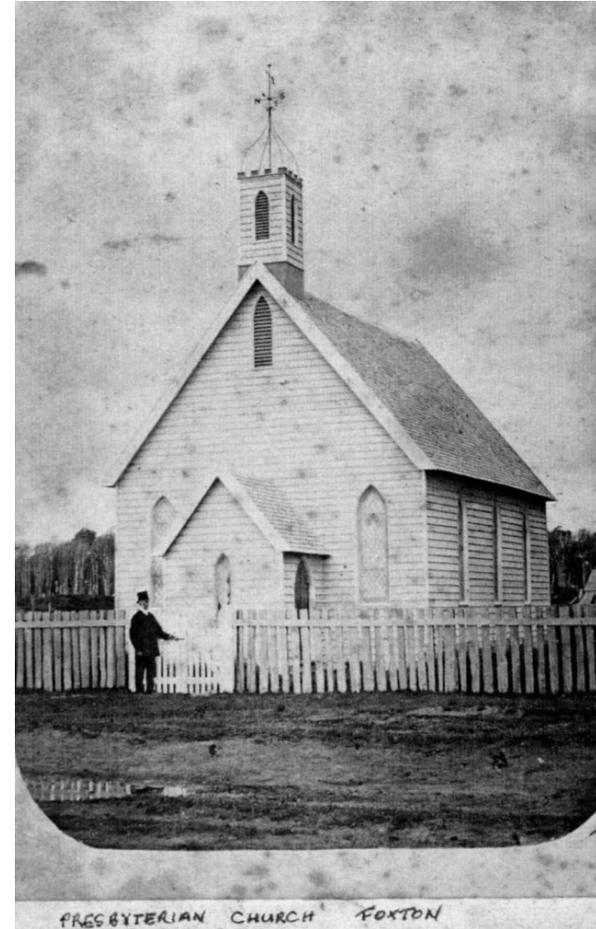


Figure 5 Contrast this very early photo of the Foxton Presbyterian Church with the 1878 photo of the same scene shown below. In this photo, the fence palings are very rough, in contrast with the neat picket fence in 1878. The substantial stand of trees in the background on the left side of the photo, has also been cleared by 1878. Comparison with known photos of the Rev. James Duncan, suggest that this is probably him.<sup>1</sup> (Source: Photo ID: f2000.2279, Foxton Historical Society: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/site/images/show/2947-presbyterian-church-1880s>)

In the Manawatu it was still believed that Te Kooti and his followers were travelling southwards. They were expected to pass through the Manawatu Gorge and thereafter down the Manawatu River. It was believed that they intended to join Titokowaru and his Hauhau followers; who in turn were believed to be travelling down from the direction of Whanganui. A report had been received that the two leaders in fact intended to meet at Foxton.<sup>32</sup>

At that time, Foxton was only “a collection of houses,” with a scattering of Pakeha settlers were then living in upper Manawatu. Thus these settlers and their families abandoned their homes and property, and rushed to Foxton in the hope of safety, although the town had no militia or (military) volunteers and only a very small supply of arms. However, all available weapons were brought to Main Street, Foxton, which: “*then boasted the following buildings – the Presbyterian church which had just been completed,*” and about three others, including Mr J.W. Liddell’s store. There were a few other buildings around them, including two hotels.<sup>33</sup> All of these settlers then delivered their women and children to Liddell’s store (near the church about half way between Clyde and Whyte Streets, but on the opposite side of the street to it), while the men took turns to act as sentries. Maori living on the Manawatu River who were not connected to these outside iwi, were just as fearful of this apparent intrusion and had also guards posted, as Te Kooti’s fearsome reputation had travelled ahead of him.<sup>34</sup>

A Major Edwards was also sent to Foxton to organise defence and the settlers were “*enrolled and armed.*” The settlers also hastily erected a stockade, and a working party went up The Avenue (now Avenue Road),

<sup>32</sup> *NZ Herald*, 3 January 1933, p. 5

<sup>33</sup> One of these two hotels, the Adelaide, was run at the time by my great grandmother, Lydia Harris Burr, and I assume that she and her four young children will have been amongst those taking refuge in Liddell’s store at this time. - VB

<sup>34</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 20 April 1893, p. 2

which ran through a “*fine stand of bush,*” and cut down whole trees, which were carted to the selected site, “*a spot on a rise in Mr Duncan’s paddock nearly opposite the schoolmaster’s residence.*” This perhaps explains the trees visible in the background of the oldest photo of the church included above, which were gone by the 1878 photo. The resulting solid timber structure was twelve feet high and it had corners built out in order to provide cover for the outer walls.<sup>35</sup> Fortunately Te Kooti did not arrive to test it and its lack of a water supply. While we may never know exactly what role (if any) the newly-built church played in this episode, almost certainly a large, easily-cleared hall like this, that was very close to both Liddell’s store which is known to have been under guard and the stockade, will have been utilised in some form.

The wider story of this incident is covered in T.L. Buick’s ‘Old Manawatu’ (pp. 282-285), where it is stated that people soon realised that the galvanised iron walls of Liddell’s store would be no match for Te Kooti’s bullets and this was what led to the decision to build the stockade on a sand ridge next door to Rev. Duncan’s house.<sup>36</sup> While it is easy to think, as Buick did, that the settlers’ reaction was somewhat extreme for those troubled times and the mechanics of ‘terror’, this was a wise response. How Te Kooti and his c200 fighting men, the up-to-600 extras (women, children and captives) and various livestock would have coped with the Manawatu Gorge and/or crossing the Ruahine or Tararua Ranges, is another unanswered question.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 20 April 1893, p. 2 (This detailed article was published at the time of Te Kooti’s death). See also *Wellington Independent*, 3 December 1868, p. 2, which describes the precautions being taken, including at Foxton.

<sup>36</sup> In the vicinity of Liddell Street (See Hunt, ‘Foxton’, pp. 19 & 32-34) – more or less between the old church and the river.

<sup>37</sup> See also: Judith Binney, ‘Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki,’ in *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, Vol. 1, 1769-1869* (Wellington, 1990), pp. 462-466; and James Belich, ‘Titokowaru, Riwaha’, in *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, Vol. 1, 1769-1869* (Wellington, 1990), p. 541-545.

The site of the former stockade continued to be regarded as historic in Foxton long after the event. John Kebbell had been a keen advocate for many years to having the hill set aside “as a reserve to memorialise this historic event in Foxton’s early history. He approached the Government on the subject and offered £20 towards the purchase of the land. Some years ago (i.e. prior to 1933) a committee was appointed in Foxton to further the project but it was never consummated.” John Kebbell had been the captain of the hastily established local militia of some 120 men, at the time of the emergency. In early 1933, the “historic sandhill” was levelled by labour consisting of the unemployed and the New Zealand Woolpack and Textiles Ltd. factory was then built in its place.<sup>38</sup> Given Foxton’s history of fires, this perhaps already left the old church as the only survivor of that time.

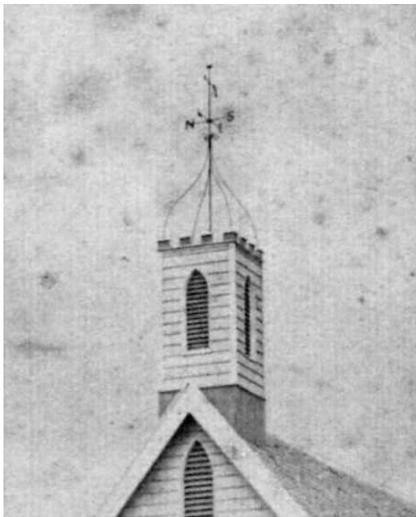


Figure 7 The weather vane on the church's belfry from the very early photo of the church, reminds that at the time this was probably the town's landmark in terms of height and visibility. (Cropped from Photo ID: f2000.2279, Foxton Historical Society)



Figure 6 The year “1878” is scratched onto the negative of this photo, and it will be one of the photos that Whanganui photographer W.J. Harding took of Foxton in late March or early April 1878. Note the new picket fence that has appeared since the earlier photo above. The land in the background on the left side of the church, has also been cleared. The road also appears to now have curbing. (Source: Harding, William James, 1826-1899 : Negatives of Wanganui district. Ref: 1/1-000315-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22320954>)

<sup>38</sup> NZ Herald, 3 January 1933, p. 5; Hunt, 'Foxton': p. 131, 133

### **Some Subsequent History of the Church**

Duncan gave up Maori Mission work in 1872 to minister within his own parish at Foxton and at “a new settlement near Palmerston North” (probably this ‘was’ in fact Palmerston North). He was by then aged about 59. He eventually retired in 1897, although he still preached fortnightly for some time thereafter.<sup>39</sup> Duncan remained living in Foxton and died there in 1907, aged 94.<sup>40</sup> His former home, known as the ‘Duncan Homestead’ and which was built by George Nye in 1870, is still standing in Lady’s Mile<sup>41</sup> and is listed in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

At the time of the church’s 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1930, £250 was being raised to pay off debts and also to “restore the church, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, Presbyterian church now standing in New Zealand.”<sup>42</sup> If that fact was correct in 1930, then the status must be even more relevant over 85 years later.

The Manawatu Times of 21<sup>st</sup> February 1903 (p. 2) reported that: “The large pine trees near the old Presbyterian Church are growing to such an extent that the building is now quite dwarfed. If some of these trees were cut down, especially the one overhanging the main street, no doubt the church would not look so insignificant. A little paint would also be a decided improvement.”

The church narrowly escaped the third of the disastrous fires that struck Foxton over a two-month period in 1912. This included the fire that occurred on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1912, which destroyed a block of twelve businesses premises: “The fire was stopped at Stiles’ drapery establishment, where a

corrugated iron wall and 40 feet of vacant section, assisted the strenuous efforts of the residents to save it destroying the Presbyterian Church, and so carrying on to the Police Station, new Town Hall, Courthouse, etc. The Presbyterian Church is an old building with a shingle roof. Men mounted the roof and wet the shingles, others pulled down the fences, and others again splashed buckets of water on the walls.”<sup>43</sup>

The Church’s Minute Book records information on this fire from a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1912. This records that a Mr Comrie was being asked to come to Foxton to assess the damage to the church. A notice was also to be published in the Manawatu Herald to thank the people who had helped stop the fire before it reached the church.

Letters were also to be written to the people who had worked to save the building: John Thomsen, S.S. Spear, Mr Woods, W. Jone(s?), Mr Hart, Mr Moore and Mr Hennessey, for the use of his fire extinguisher. The minutes added that the committee particularly wished that “the services of Mr John Ross to be put on record in these minutes for the splendid manner in which he put out the fire on the church roof when it caught fire in 2 or 3 places...and for his help in other ways at the recent fire.” James McKnight was also to be paid ten shillings for his duty as watchman on the night of the fire, and Mr Hamer was to be paid 6/6d, which was the price of a tub that went astray on the night of the fire.<sup>44</sup>

Foxton’s Presbyterian congregation declined in the 1920s and by the early 1930s, Foxton was ‘going through an economic slump’. Shannon’s Presbyterian Church was evidently in a similar situation and it was believed that neither could carry on alone. As a result, in late 1932, the

<sup>39</sup> ‘Duncan, Rev. James’ in ‘Register of New Zealand Presbyterian Church: Ministers, Deaconesses & Missionaries from 1840: Dow to Dyson’: <http://www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/Page159.htm>

<sup>40</sup> *Feilding Star*, 3 January 1908, p. 3; *Evening Post*, 20 March 1930, p. 11; Mitchell, p. 19

<sup>41</sup> Horowhenua District Council: Research material compiled in 1995-96 by Val Burr on the history of the Duncan Homestead, located at 11A Lady’s Mile, Foxton.

<sup>42</sup> *Evening Post*, 20 March 1930, p. 11

<sup>43</sup> *Manawatu Times*, 24 July 1912, p. 5

<sup>44</sup> Foxton Presbyterian Management Committee Minute Book, 25 July 1912, p. 80: Series 1, Vol. 1, (1907-1942): PN Community Archive, Ian Matheson City Archives, Palmerston North Library

Foxton congregation combined with the Shannon Presbyterians to form the Manawatu South Home Mission Charge.<sup>45</sup>

This group continued until 1<sup>st</sup> September 1959, when the Foxton Presbyterians established themselves as a separate parish. The Parish consisted of Foxton, Foxton Beach, Himatangi and Oroua Downs. Meanwhile the Shannon Parish consisted of Shannon, Tokomaru and Opiki.<sup>46</sup>



Figure 8 This scene is the eastern side of Main Street, Foxton, probably just hours after the early-morning fire of 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1912. Foxton Presbyterian Church is in the background, and notes on the reverse of the original photo state: “Mark on church roof below belfry is one of two places where roof caught fire. The fire had to be stopped at this point.” Note also the extension on the back of the building. (Source: Photo ID: f1999.0220, Foxton Historical Society: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/site/images/show/5741-main-street-foxtton-after-the-july-1912-fire>)

<sup>45</sup> Foxton Presbyterian Management Committee Minute Book, 27 September 1932, p. 233, and 4 October 1932, p. 234: Series 1, Vol. 1, (1907-1942): PN Community Archive, Ian Matheson City Archives, Palmerston North Library

<sup>46</sup> Foxton Presbyterian Church Session Minute Book, pp. 18 & 20, Series 2, Vol. 1: PN Community Archive, Ian Matheson City Archives, Palmerston North Library

In 1972, the Presbyterians and Methodists united and both groups sold off surplus property. This ultimately led to the sale of the old Presbyterian Church.<sup>47</sup>

### **The Little Theatre**

The Foxton Little Theatre was founded in 1944 and initially its plays were staged at the Town Hall. However, that venue was not really suitable for their purposes. They also used smaller halls for some activities and even private homes. In 1963, the Little Theatre leased the old Foxton Library as its first ‘home’. However, the Foxton Borough Council subsequently decided to demolish that building as it was in a substandard condition. Then in 1971, the Little Theatre decided to buy the old Presbyterian Church and after a variety of fundraising activities, the church was purchased. The first play took place there in 1973.<sup>48</sup>

In 1975, the building received a facelift at the hands of the Foxton Jaycees:

*“Members recently spent many hours in painting the exterior of Foxton’s Little Theatre. One of Foxton’s oldest buildings, it originally was the Presbyterian Church. This refurbishment coincides with the first production of the year...”*<sup>49</sup>

In 1987, Nicola Freaan wrote in her study, *Foxton: Historic Places*, that:

*“The original design (of the former church) has survived only in the front façade and shape of the church. Successive additions have been made to the rear: a hall in 1961<sup>50</sup>, then a porch on the northern side, finally in 1983 another storeroom at the back. Internally, the*

<sup>47</sup> Hunt, *Foxton*, p. 198

<sup>48</sup> Hunt, *Foxton*, p. 212

<sup>49</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 13 August 1975, p. 3

<sup>50</sup> The hall appears to pre-date 1912 – so the date 1961 may refer to other work in the (Sunday school) hall.

*church has now become the auditorium, and the pulpit area the stage. Another door had to be opened in the southern wall for a fire exit. The walls, which previously showed traces of the original chiselling on the stained wood, have now been painted black. A picket fence has been built in front (1991). In 1977, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust placed the former Presbyterian Church in its 'C' classification."*

The confused status of this building with the former New Zealand Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand), warrants attention here. While this building was 'apparently' awarded a Category 'C' classification in 1977, matters were not so clear-cut by the mid-1990s when the Foxton Little Theatre Society was seeking Lotteries Board funding for work on the building. Correspondence in the files of the former Manawatu Branch Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) reveals that the building was evidently proposed for classification in 1983 by the NZHPT Buildings Classification Committee: *"however, the Committee never again managed an assessment visit to the Manawatu before they were disbanded, hence perhaps the confusion."* After explaining the history of the building, the secretary of the Manawatu Branch ends her letter with the comment: *"Its significance is such, it is unfortunate this building has slipped through the net."*<sup>51</sup>

Cindy Lilburn, secretary of the Manawatu Branch Committee NZHPT subsequently also wrote to Daphne Hunt, of the Foxton Little Theatre, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1995, advising that the Manawatu Branch Committee had recommended that the building be considered for a Category II classification with NZHPT. This was on the basis of the building being *"the oldest surviving building in Manawatu and because of its connection with*

<sup>51</sup> Letter dated 28 April 1995, Cindy Lilburn of the Manawatu Branch Committee of NZHPT, to Patricia Adams, Heritage Assistance, NZHPT, Wellington (File: 14-0026, Manawatu Branch Committee of NZ Historic Places Trust, c/- Te Manawa, Palmerston North)

*the Reverend Duncan, an early missionary in this region."*<sup>52</sup> It appears that nothing further was done with listing the building beyond that time.<sup>53</sup>

The Foxton Little Theatre is run as a 'not-for-profit' organisation entitled 'Foxton Little Theatre Society Incorporated.' It was incorporated on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2004, although it was also referred to as incorporated in 1972 on Certificate of Title WN10B/684 (this matter was not further researched). It is now registered as a charity.<sup>54</sup> It has a website: <http://foxtonlittletheatre.webs.com/> that outlines the society's activities, and a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Foxton-Little-Theatre-162326520551552/> that provides more up-to-the-minute information.

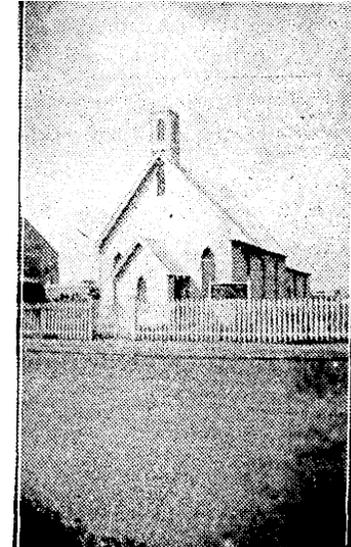


Figure 9 The church as pictured in the *Evening Post* of 20 March 1930 (p. 11)

### Historic Records

The Manawatu Presbytery Records held for this church start around 1907. This is thought to possibly be the result of Rev James Duncan's instruction to his daughter a year before his death in 1907, for her to destroy all his personal papers. As the Parish records are likely to have been in his possession, it

<sup>52</sup> Letter dated 17 May 1995, Cindy Lilburn of the Manawatu Branch Committee of NZHPT, to Daphne Hunt, Foxton Little Theatre (File: 14-0026, Manawatu Branch Committee of NZ Historic Places Trust, c/- Te Manawa, Palmerston North)

<sup>53</sup> The building was not listed at the time I undertook my research for the Horowhenua District Council in 1995-1996.

<sup>54</sup> No. 1578570: [www.societies.govt.nz/](http://www.societies.govt.nz/) ; Charities Services No: CC42269: <https://www.charities.govt.nz/>

is thought that they were possibly also destroyed at that time.<sup>55</sup> The subsequent records from Foxton that are part of the Presbytery of Manawatu Parish Records, are held by the Ian Matheson City Archive, at Palmerston North City Library.<sup>56</sup>

Biographies on Duncan include W.W. Gibson's 21-leaf book *The Rev. James Duncan: First Presbyterian missionary to the Maori*, published in 1975 by the Presbyterian Historical Society of New Zealand (this book was not sighted for this study, but must be acknowledged). Marjorie Mitchell subsequently wrote the chapter 'Rev. James Duncan' in *Pioneers of Foxton, Book One*; while G.S. Parsonson's biography on him was published in *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, Vol. I.

The former Manawatu Branch Committee of NZHPT's file on this building, (File No: 14-0026) is currently part of that committee's extensive filing system on the region's old buildings and this is currently held at Te Manawa, in Palmerston North.

The Foxton Historical Society holds a collection of material on the history of the Foxton Little Theatre from about the year 1944 onwards.<sup>57</sup> Also, Tony Hunt wrote the book *The Shifting Home: A play in four scenes written on the occasion of the celebrations marking the fiftieth birthday of the Foxton Little Theatre*, which was published in 1995. This book was not sighted for this study, but must be acknowledged.

Defence records from the late 1860s should include information on the events at Foxton in 1868. That may provide information on what role this building played in the proceedings.

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<sup>55</sup> 'Manawatu Presbytery Records':

<http://www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/ManawatuPresbytery.htm>

<sup>56</sup> 'Location of New Zealand Presbyterian Church Parish Records':

<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/archives/page91.htm>

<sup>57</sup> 'Foxton Historical Society Collection on Foxton Little Theatre' in The Community Archive: <http://thecommunityarchive.org.nz/node/221331/description>

It has been recorded that this church was named 'St. Andrews Presbyterian Church'. However, this was not confirmed during this study, which included looking through the church's minute records. Instead it was always identified in records sighted from effectively the c105-year 'lifetime' of the church, as the 'Foxton Presbyterian Church'.

### **George Nye**

George Nye, who both designed and erected this building, was not a qualified architect in the usual sense. He was born in England in 1826 and soon orphaned. He was then raised by his aunt and her husband, who was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. The family then immigrated to New Zealand in 1839, where Nye was soon (aged 13) involved with building the new settlement of Wellington. Nye was involved with a range of activities and by 1850 he was in the Manawatu where, with a qualified shipwright, Frank Abel, he built two 40-ton schooners that were intended for the Manawatu-Wellington trade route.

The 1855 earthquake that destroyed Paiaka, led to Nye working as a builder at Foxton until 1872. Thereafter he was involved with the public works activities in Manawatu, being Overseer under District Surveyor, James T. Stewart. Works he supervised included the Government wharf at Foxton, the Foxton-Palmerston North tramway and the railway to Wanganui. He was a foundation councillor on the Foxton Borough Council and twice the town's mayor. He died in 1907. In addition to this former church and the Duncan Homestead<sup>58</sup>, the cottage 'Sunnyside' in Newth Road, which was his former home that he built in 1869 from a single totara log that had floated down the river, is also still standing, though it now appears to be unoccupied.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> *Wellington Independent*, 22 September 1870, p. 2 (Reference to the homestead being under construction)

<sup>59</sup> Ken Cassells, 'George Nye' in *Pioneers of Foxton, Book One* (Foxton Historical Society, 1988), pp. 14-16

**Thomas Cameron**

Thomas Cameron is almost certainly the “*Mr Cameron*” involved with George Nye in the construction of this former church. Scottish-born, he migrated to Sydney at an early age, where he became a building contractor. He then migrated to Foxton, where he lived for some years before returning to Sydney, where he became a hotel-keeper. He then returned to New Zealand in 1894, at which point he settled in Levin. For the last seven years of his life, he resided at the Levin State Farm. He died in September 1901, aged 63.<sup>60</sup>

As well as his work on the church in 1867, some of Thomas Cameron’s other jobs in the town are known. These include: Mr Thynne’s new sales room in Foxton in late 1872<sup>61</sup>; the new Foxton School and the Bank of New Zealand in mid-1875<sup>62</sup>; alterations and additions to the Foxton Police buildings and a cottage for the constable-in-charge in 1879<sup>63</sup>; and employing fencers as a fencing contractor in 1881.<sup>64</sup>

**Certificates of Title**

The earliest certificate of title sighted for this study was WN336/214, which was issued to The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees in 1926, for a property of 1 rood and 32 perches in size (the prior certificate of title was WN22/31). The subsequent title, WN10B/684, was issued to the same owner in August 1972, but the area had been reduced to 30.6 perches (metric equivalent being 774 square metres).

<sup>60</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 30 January 1894, p. 2; *Manawatu Times*, 10 September 1901, p. 2; Old Levin Cemetery records: <http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Cemeteries/Cemetery-Search-Results/?record=4767>

<sup>61</sup> *Wellington Independent*, 15 August 1872, p. 2

<sup>62</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 19 April 1875, p. 2

<sup>63</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 20 May 1879, p. 2

<sup>64</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 22 July 1881, p. 3

This property was then transferred to the Foxton Little Theatre Society Incorporated in October 1972. This certificate of title was then combined with a property with the Identifier No: ‘507556’ in August 2013 to form the current title, which has the Identifier No: ‘600320.’ This land now covers approximately 880 square metres and the matter was not researched further.

**Building Permit Record**

Photos show the original church as a simple rectangle with the porch at the front. No photos were found showing the back of the church as built; however, it was described in 1868 as measuring ‘about’ 50ft by 25ft. A 1954 plan of the building in the Building Permit files states that the old church part of the building was 40ft by 25ft.

A photo of the church at the time of the 1912 fire, shows the extension that became the “*Sunday School Hall*,” was already in place and attached to the back of the church. This addition is still in place. This hall was in 1954 described as measuring 30ft by 25 ft. A 19ft by 11ft 6in kitchen was attached alongside that hall, and this was eventually extended up the side of the building, including alongside the church itself, probably in 1972, and certainly before 1982.

**1925** – The oldest item in the Little Theatre’s Building Permit file is a plan of a two-cubicle toilet block that stood alongside the “*present fence*”, and quite close to the church building. Foxton Borough Council approved the plan on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1925.

**1954** – A stage was added to the church hall in plans that were approved on 11<sup>th</sup> February of that year. This 15ft by 29ft addition stood at the very back of the building and it was built with rimu exterior cladding and matai flooring, and it cost £475 to erect.

**1972** – Now in the Little Theatre’s ownership, additions and alterations to the value of \$900 were approved to be made to the building in the course of its re-purposing. Although not described, this seems likely to be the extension on the left side of the building that now covers the lower part of the three original church windows on that side, as this addition shows on a plan of the building’s 1982 footprint.

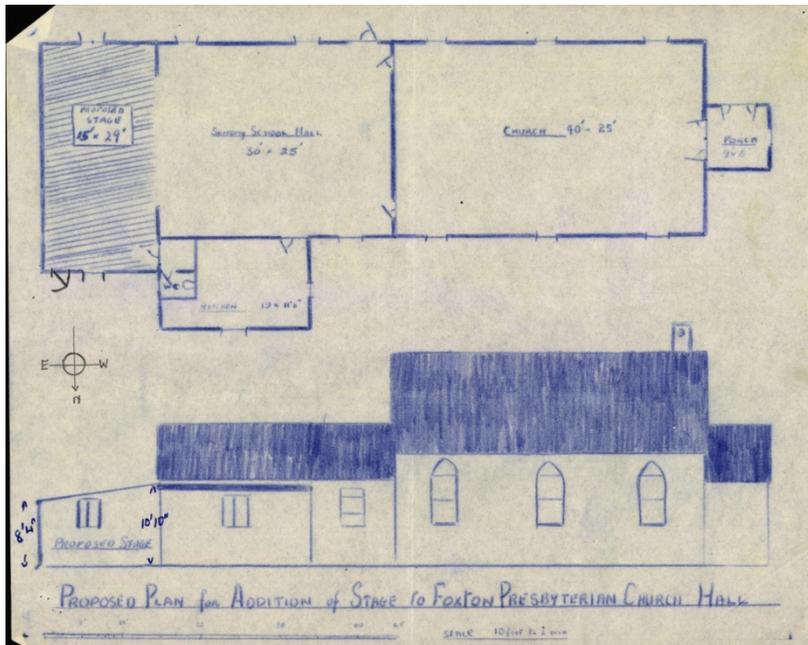


Figure 10 The layout of Foxton Presbyterian Church in 1954, when a stage was being added to the Sunday School Hall. The small belfry was also drawn into this plan. (Source: Horowhenua District Council, Building Permit records for the building)

**1982** – This application form was to add a storeroom (3.6 by 4.8 metres) for the theatre flats onto the back of the building. This addition was to have asbestos walls, a corrugated iron roof and concrete piles.

**1985** – It is not clear what this permit was for, but the ‘additions to the existing hall’ were to cost \$2,800, and the result was to have timber walls, and iron roof and concrete foundations.

**1991** – A new (3.6 x 3.9 metres) storeroom, with a roller door, at the back of the building that is attached to the 1982 addition above. All materials were to match the existing materials.

**2002** – A permit to repile part of the building, including the theatre (former church part), including replacing the 45 totara piles (that were all set in concrete), along with blocking the existing concrete piles and tying them up with wire. Dirt had to be dug away to gain access to undertake this work. The front part of the building also had to be relevelled back to the original, as it had been about 80mm down.

**2010** – An existing storage shed at the back of the building was to be demolished and a replacement building (a room) relocated onto the site, close to, but separate from, the main building. An existing room at the back of the main building was apparently also to be re-clad externally (possibly the 1982 addition).

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The former church is a single storied, steeply pitched gabled, timber framed and clad building. It is set back from the street boundary. It has an early or original symmetrical entry porch, also steeply gabled, facing the street. There is shallower gabled addition to the rear, which, in turn, has a lean-to extension. Based on a 1954 building consent drawing, the addition closest to the church is a hall noted as being 30’ by 25’ with the rear lean-to a stage noted as being 15’ by 29’. The church dimensions are shown as 40’ by 25’. There is also a non-original lean-to on the north of the building.

The original sections of the former church have shiplap weatherboards with corner stops. These details and the angled jambs to the windows indicate an early date for the church. Roofing material is corrugated steel.

Both the main building and entry porch have lancet shaped timber windows with fixed and opening casements. The double entry doors to the porch are also lancet shaped and are ledged and panelled. The south elevation to the main building has a door under the central lancet window, clearly a later addition. Windows to the western and northern additions are square headed casements.

### Style

The church is designed in the Carpenter Gothic style, which was a vernacular 'builders' adaptation of Gothic architecture using the forms but few of the details of academic Gothic. The style was most commonly used for churches of modest scale and it was popular with the English Ecclesiological Society, a learned and influential society established in 1839, which advocated for a return to mediaeval Gothic church architecture.

Early buildings in this style used exposed timber framing with board linings fixed on the inside, steeply pitched roofs of shingles, slate or corrugated steel, with wide, although usually not decorated, bargeboards. This former church is a very plain version of the style with little decoration.

### Setting

The former church is on the eastern side of Main Street in the northern part of the main commercial area of Foxton township. The site is flat with extensive grassed areas and trees to the street along the northern boundary. Access to the former church is through a sharp pointed picket fence.

The generously wide Main Street extends north from Seaview Gardens in the south to Ihakara Gardens in the north. Both gardens are on small hills and visually contain the street. Shops in the commercial area are either single or two storeyed and date mainly from the Edwardian period. There are several discrete blocks of shops as well as several residential buildings and two churches (of which this is one). Visually dominating the street is the Windmill to the central west of the street.



Figure 11 This photo shows the original portion of the building on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1996. This extension was also present by the time of the 1912 fire, pictured above. Note that the window that has been altered to accommodate a fire escape door for the Little Theatre. The patch of different-looking roofing iron shows the former location of the church's belfry. (Photo: Val Burr)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building has **regional** significance for demonstrating high **historic, design, and group/setting** values and moderate **social** and **technological** values.

When assessed against Council's Thematic Framework the Former Foxton Presbyterian Church is in the First Contact and Post-Contact Groups and is considered to be representative of the following themes and subthemes:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Social/Cultural</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission station</li> <li>• Church</li> </ul>

It may also represent the military/defence theme if its use is confirmed as a refuge for residents during the period when it was believed Te Kooti would attack.



Figure 12 This photo shows the original portion of the building on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1996, along with some of the alterations that have occurred since 1972, in the course of re-purposing the building. (Photo: Val Burr)

**Values**

The building has high **historical** values in its association with the earliest period settlement of Foxton and with Rev. James Duncan and builder, George Nye. It is now nearly 150 years old having been constructed in 1867.

Rev. Duncan is a significant figure in the history of the Presbyterian Church. He was the first Presbyterian missionary to Maori, one of the first

New Zealand Presbyterian ministers and was twice a moderator of the General Assembly of the New Zealand Presbyterian church. He donated the land and commissioned the church from which he ministered to his congregation for 30 years. He was also an early school teacher in Foxton.

Nye was locally significant as an early settler, builder, shipwright, clerk of Works for the Public Works Department, a foundation Councillor and was twice Mayor of the Foxton Borough Council.

The former church has high **historic** values in being the only building to survive from the period when attacks by Te Kooti were anticipated. Confirmation of the use of the church as a refuge by locals during this period would enhance these values.

The building has moderate **social** values in its association with Foxton’s Little Theatre. Their 44 year association with the building began in 1972 and during this time they have regularly performed live theatre.

The church has high **architectural** values as an ideal example of the mid-Victorian Carpenter Gothic style. It also has high **setting/group** values as a primary building in the Foxton township historic area through its scale, form, age, style, location, visibility and detailing.

It has moderate **technological** values as a typical example of timber construction of the period.

**Measure**

The former church has low to moderate levels of **authenticity** having had extensive additions over time, while also having moderate levels of **integrity**. The structure is **rare** being the oldest building in Manawatu and is claimed to be oldest Presbyterian church in New Zealand.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the former church is listed as a Group 1 building in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

## ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	H
Social	M	Archaeological	*
Architectural	H	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	M		
<b>Significance</b>	National	<b>Regional</b>	Local
<b>Recommended Group</b>		<b>1</b>	

\* An archaeological investigation has not been undertaken as part of the assessment of this property; it is possible that it may have archaeological values given that the building is associated with pre-1900 human activity.

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Horowhenua District Council: Research material compiled by Val Burr in 1995-96 on the history of the Duncan Homestead, located at 11A Lady's Mile, Foxton.

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H59 - Levin Cenotaph



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Horowhenua District Council
<b>Address:</b>	Corner of Cambridge Street and Kent Street, Levin
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Section 2 Block XVIII Township of Levin
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN242/171
<b>Construction date:</b>	1923
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Levin Borough Council
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The Levin Cenotaph, which is the second on the site, was unveiled on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1923. It records the names of 64 of the District's World War One (WWI) dead. In 2010, its surrounds were dramatically upgraded and additional plaques were installed on new adjoining walls. These walls list more WWI names that had been missed in 1923, along with the local dead from other wars. The location where it stands is now named 'Remembrance Park.'

#### *The First Levin Soldiers' Memorial*

The *Horowhenua Chronicle* of 5<sup>th</sup> December 1916 (p. 2) records that a movement was afoot to have a site that was being added to the Levin Public Gardens, reserved as a site for a future memorial to the men who had fallen in "the present great war." The matter had been discussed at a meeting of the Levin Borough Council the previous evening, with Councillor Fosella speaking "earnestly" of the need to erect an artistic column upon which to set out the names of the fallen. Another councillor suggested building a band rotunda or some other useful thing as a memorial instead. Eventually the Council agreed to invite designs for the laying out of the newly acquired piece of land; while also leaving a space of "not less than 14ft by 14ft" to allow for a future memorial.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Fosella moved that steps be taken to begin raising money toward the memorial. The mayor seconded this but it was eventually deferred "until a more propitious occasion." Waiting until the declaration of peace would be more appropriate.<sup>65</sup> By this time, local losses at Gallipoli, and the recently concluded Battle of the Somme, will have been having a major effect on the local community. Passchendaele was yet to come.

<sup>65</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 5 December 1916, p. 2

In early September 1919, the mayor called a meeting to consider what type of memorial the town should have. For example, Otaki was planning a memorial municipal building that was to have the names of the local dead on display.<sup>66</sup> By December 1919, the proposal under consideration included an idea “a little out of the ordinary”, in that its base would be a rockery, with steps leading up to the memorial. Peter Black<sup>67</sup>, curator to the Palmerston North City Council (and who largely established the city’s Victoria Esplanade), was to submit a scheme to blend the existing gardens to the new part which was where the memorial was to go. This area was to be planted by the Levin Beautification Society. During his inspection visit, Black was also taken to the headwaters of the Ohau River (off Gladstone Road) to see the large boulders there. He concluded that these would be excellent for the rockery.<sup>68</sup>

In September 1920, the opinions of the next-of-kin of the fallen were sought as to their preferred type of memorial and they proved to prefer “some such enduring and tangible token as a stone or pillar of marble in a readily accessible spot.” The public was also asked to provide funds for the work to the value of £1,000, with the memorial to include a rockery “built on commanding lines and forming the focus of paths from various quarters of the gardens. Four flights of steps will ascend through the rockery to its summit, and here will be placed a massive pillar or block of marble, on four sides of which will be recorded the names of those soldiers whom it will commemorate for successive generations.”<sup>69</sup> Fundraising was soon underway, with the list of donors being published in the newspaper.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>66</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 30 August 1919, p. 3

<sup>67</sup> Ian Matheson, *Community and Council: 125 Years of Local Government in Palmerston North, 1877-2002* (Palmerston North, 2003), p. 108

<sup>68</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 30 December 1919, p. 2

<sup>69</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 3 September 1920, p. 2

<sup>70</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 4 September 1920, p. 3

Despite the various ideas involving marble pillars, in the end the first memorial was a piece of rock cut out of an outcrop of rock known as a ‘monadnock’, on the hillside beside the Ohau River.

The stone used was located “in Gladstone Road, around the bend into the Ohau Valley past the water treatment station and settling tanks.”<sup>71</sup> Another source describes this stone as having been “obtained from the Arapaepae hills (Gladstone Road extension).” However, the stone cracked during extraction and thus the resulting memorial appeared crude and, due to the crack, it was in two pieces.<sup>72</sup>



Figure 13 The first memorial atop its incomplete rockery photographed in 1921 or 1922 - with the newly-built, Thompson House, in the background. (Photo: Horowhenua Historical Society Inc: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/images/3824-first-war-memorial-in-levin-gardens-c1922> )

<sup>71</sup> ‘Levin War Memorial’, Kete Horowhenua: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/313-levin-war-memorial>

<sup>72</sup> W.F. Doreen, T.G. Sewell & A.H. Chetwin, *75 Years in Levin* (Levin, 1981), p. 52

This resulted in strong protests as to the state of it and in due course a committee was formed and fundraising began to replace the unwanted one.<sup>73</sup>

In the summer of 1995-96 this writer recorded a number of entries on the progress of the memorial that appeared in the *Horowhenua Chronicle*<sup>74</sup>, and these appear not to have been recorded in other histories of the two memorials on this site. The most relevant of these are as follows:

- Horowhenua Chronicle (HC) – 1<sup>st</sup> September 1920, p. 2(6): The landscape gardener is laying out the rockery.
- HC – 5<sup>th</sup> October 1920, p. 3(5): Letter to the Editor from Marco Fosella criticising the memorial. (Fosella's father was an Italian sculptor and engraver. Marco Fosella died in September 1921, aged 75<sup>75</sup>).
- HC – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1920, p. 2(8): The contractor is making a start next week on the foundations and garden.
- HC – 5<sup>th</sup> March 1921, p. 2(7): A large stone was hauled into position in the Cambridge Street gardens yesterday for the memorial.
- HC – 8<sup>th</sup> March 1921, p. 2(8): Vandals strike the Cambridge Street gardens.
- HC – 28<sup>th</sup> March 1921, p. 2(8): The large stone for the soldiers' memorial in the Cambridge Street gardens will be placed in position tomorrow, after which it is expected that work will proceed more expeditiously.
- HC – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1921, p. 2(8): The block of stone to be used for the memorial has been lifted into place by the County Council's traction engine.

<sup>73</sup> 'Levin War Memorial', Kete Horowhenua: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/313-levin-war-memorial>

<sup>74</sup> Note that this newspaper was then called the *Levin Chronicle*, but the better known name appears here to avoid confusion

<sup>75</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 26 September 1921

- HC – 24<sup>th</sup> May 1921, p. 2(8): Mr Conway, of Palmerston North, contractor for the memorial, has resumed work and will be finished in the next few weeks.
- HC – 1<sup>st</sup> September 1921, p. 3(5): The committee recommends a new design for the memorial. The rockery is very good. Doesn't like the central stone. They want to extend the rockery. The RSA suggests replacing the stone with a cairn. The committee says people shouldn't criticise it until they have seen the finished article. However, the job should be correct before ordering the subscription stones or the scrolls.
- HC – 13<sup>th</sup> September 1921, p. 3(3): Letter to the Editor noting that the committee is unhappy with the present stone and details the process of changing to a cairn.
- HC – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1921, p. 2(8): Designs for the replacement memorial were being procured, with the work to date being outlined – foundations and rockery. The Hansford & Mills Construction Co. Ltd (ex-Parliament contractors) were requested to have their designer submit plans for the replacement memorial. They had previously designed the Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill memorials.
- HC – 10<sup>th</sup> December 1921 p. 2(6): The Levin Memorial Committee has received five designs.

### ***The 'Levin and District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial'***

Despite designs for the replacement memorial being received in December 1921, work did not begin on the one selected until 25<sup>th</sup> January 1923. The resulting memorial, a marble obelisk, was unveiled less than two months later, at 2:00pm on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, by Major General Sir Edward Chaytor, the officer in command of New Zealand's military forces.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>76</sup> '1923-04: Levin and District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial. Unveiling ceremony. 14 March 1923. Order of service (Unveiling by Major-General Sir E W C Chaytor),' in [Ephemera relating to

Chaytor unveiled a number of New Zealand's war memorials around this time.

Unfortunately the designer of this replacement memorial was not discovered during this study. However, a deeper archival search should reveal such information.



Figure 14 The front view of the Levin Cenotaph, as it appeared until recent years, atop its 'special' rockery on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1995 (Photo: Val Burr)

References to the memorial at the time referred to it as the '*Fallen Soldiers Memorial*.' Possibly this was in part to contrast it with the Peace Memorial at Weraroa Domain, that was to have been unveiled the following week. However, due to the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. W.F. Massey, (who was to unveil it) having to be elsewhere on that date, he did not unveil it

World War I memorial services and war memorials. 1914-1929]: Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of NZ: <https://tiaki.natlib.govt.nz/#details=ecatalogue.722677>

until 11<sup>th</sup> April 1923. That memorial, which was unveiled in front of a crowd of around 1,000 people, was dedicated to the men who fought in the 1914-1918 war; as opposed to only those who died in it as in the case of the Levin Cenotaph.<sup>77</sup> It is also noticeable that the unveiling of the Peace Memorial received a great deal of national publicity, whereas the unveiling of the cenotaph appears to have received little publicity outside its own community.

The following Anzac Day (1923), about a thousand people attended a ceremony at the new war memorial, with sixty veterans, bands and territorials marching to the gardens behind a gun carriage. A choir and orchestra were also present.<sup>78</sup>

Between 500 and 600 men left the District to serve in WWI and the 64 names on the memorial comprised of men from the Ohau, Koputaroa and Ihakara districts who died variously in action; in hospital in England; or as the result of wounds or sickness.<sup>79</sup> In addition to the names of the dead on the front panel, the memorial has a cross on both sides of it and a statement of the memorial's purpose (remembering the dead from the District in the Great War) on the back.

### **More Recent Times**

In 2007, a group known as 'Adopt an Anzac' (the Horowhenua District War Memorials Project Committee) was formed with a view to looking after the District's war memorials. In the case of the Levin Cenotaph (as its name has become at some point since 1923), the setting has been dramatically altered since that time, with a \$153,000 upgrade being undertaken to the Cenotaph and its surrounds. This included four more plaques with additional names, a paved memorial plaza surrounding the old memorial,

<sup>77</sup> *Evening Post*, 12 April 1923, p. 10

<sup>78</sup> Anthony Dreaver, *Levin: The making of a town* (Levin, 2006), p. 140

<sup>79</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 13 March 1923: Kete Horowhenua: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/313-levin-war-memorial>

and 25 boxes made with toughened glass that glow with red poppy images at night. The Horowhenua District Council contributed the engineering, planning and administration to the project at no expense.<sup>80</sup>

In 2012, Dennis Cole added a comment to update the nzhistory.net.nz webpage on this memorial. He wrote:

*“Adopt an Anzac commenced its work in fund-raising for the Levin Cenotaph in 2007, working towards providing this memorial area with additional plaques covering the Boer War, World War II and the Korean War.... In addition, plaques were created for Levin & District war dead that were ‘not recorded locally’, totalling 49 extra men being provided for, (these being) 28 from World War I, and 21 from World War II. In addition to providing two wing walls to cater for the additional plaques, work was carried out to stabilise the Cenotaph, as well as providing better public access by way of concrete steps and wheel chair ramps. Now set on a raised mound, the Cenotaph with its two flag poles, up-lighting to illuminate the cenotaph, and plaques with subdued lighting, presents a very positive and fitting memorial to our war dead.*

*“This upgraded area was unveiled at a special ceremony on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010, just in time for Anzac Day 2010. To complement the whole development, a Poppy Box Plaza was established. This comprises 25 individually-named poppy boxes, which are illuminated at night and provide a very moving tribute to the past servicepersons of our district.”<sup>81</sup>*

<sup>80</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 10 October 2008: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/667121/More-names-for-cenotaph> ; *Manawatu Standard*, 7 April 2009: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/2319994/War-memorial-upgrade-delayed> ; *Manawatu Standard*, 16 October 2009: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/2970444/Army-aids-cenotaph-upgrade>

<sup>81</sup> ‘Levin War Memorial’: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/levin-war-memorial>

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The Cenotaph is a symmetrical, rusticated marble memorial to WWI soldiers with a splayed pedestal on a stepped concrete plinth. The top of the memorial is flat and stepped with the upper most element projecting slightly on either side, creating flat surfaces on the front and rear of the memorial for a roll of honour. A wreath is carved from the upper most stone. On the other two sides of the memorial, are crosses carved out of the rough stonework.



Figure 15 The back view of the Levin Cenotaph, as it appeared until recent years, atop its ‘special’ rockery on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1996 (Photo: Val Burr)

The memorial is on a circular, raised gravelled area of ground with splayed concrete steps and ramps to the front/north west. To the rear of the memorial are two semi-circular rendered concrete block walls, either side

of the steps that descend to the park beyond. Two black granite plaques are fixed to each of the walls commemorating those who served in the Boer War, WWI, WWII and the Korean War. Above the plaques on the northern wall at the raised letters “Lest we forget” and on the southern wall is “Kei Warewaretia”. On either side of the walls is a flagpole.

### Style

The design of the memorial is loosely based on the cenotaph designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens for Whitehall, London. It was also the basis of many Commonwealth memorial designs. Lutyens design was a tapered, stepped, rectangular pylon with an empty stone tomb on its apex. Carved wreaths were located on each end.

### Setting

The memorial is located towards the western edge of the Public Gardens in Levin, which are to the east of the Main Trunk Line and bounded by Kent, Bath and Cambridge Streets. There are extensive plantings of large trees around the memorial, with areas of lawn to the west, a bowling green to the south and Thompson House and gardens to the east. A small triangular park, to which the Former Levin Courthouse was relocated to, is to the north west.

A large concrete paved area in front of the splayed concrete ramp and steps leading up the memorial has grey steel framed boxes/seats with red glass. The top surface has words cut out of the metal.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The memorial has high **local** significance for demonstrating high **historic** and **social** values with moderate **architectural**, **technological** and **setting/group** values.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework the Levin Cenotaph is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following theme and subtheme:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Military/defence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>War memorial</li> </ul>

### Values

The memorial has high **historic** and **social** values in its original function as a memorial to soldiers killed in WWI) and then later the Boer War, WWII and the Korean War. Between 500 to 600 local men served in WWI and the memorial was originally built in recognition of the 64 who died.

It was unveiled by Major General Sir Edward Chaytor, who, following the end of the war became general officer in charge of New Zealand’s military forces. Born in Motueka in the Nelson area, he was a highly decorated and respected professional soldier who was *“the first and only New Zealander to exercise command of an ANZAC force at divisional level”*<sup>82</sup>. He skilfully and rapidly organised the formation and deployment of the New Zealand expeditionary forces to Samoa and Egypt and successfully commanded 18,000 New Zealanders in the Palestine campaign, taking Rafah and Amman.

The memorial has moderate **architectural**, **technological** and **group** values being representative in general design, use of materials and location of many memorials that were erected as war memorials throughout New Zealand. The design is likely to have been based on Lutyen’s design for the cenotaph at Whitehall, London. The marble may be from Takaka (the stone used for Parliament Buildings). The structure is

<sup>82</sup> <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3c13/chaytor-edward-walter-clervaux>

one of many war memorials constructed throughout the country commemorating mainly WWI and WWII.

The memorial has moderate **setting** values being a focus of Levin's Public Gardens, surrounded by mature trees with recently completed, expansive steps, ramps and art installations.

### Measure

Excluding the setting, the memorial itself has high levels of **authenticity**. Despite its wider and immediate setting having changed over time, it has a high level of **integrity**.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the memorial is listed as a Group 2 structure in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

### ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	M
Social	H	Archaeological	
Architectural	M	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	M		
<b>Significance</b>	National	Regional	<b>Local</b>
<b>Recommended Group</b>			<b>2</b>

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<http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/313-levin-war-memorial>. (Note that at time of writing, this webpage erroneously states that the memorial was unveiled on 13 March 1923)

'Levin War Memorial', NZ History:

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/levin-war-memorial> (Note that at time of writing, this webpage erroneously states that the memorial was unveiled on 15 March 1923)

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H60 - Weraroa Peace Memorial



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Horowhenua District Council
<b>Address:</b>	Weraroa Domain Oxford Street, Levin
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Part Section 32 Levin Suburban
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN6B/415
<b>Construction date:</b>	1923, Reconstruction 2014
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Horowhenua District Council (2014)
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The Weraroa Peace Memorial was once a tall, imposing structure, with a gate fitted between two substantial pillars and an overhead archway. That structure, however, was demolished in 1971 and it wasn't until 2014 that the original gate was re-fitted into a new memorial to honour the original purpose; albeit that the new memorial is somewhat more modest than its predecessor. The new memorial also faces the Weraroa Domain's Oxford Street frontage, rather than its former corner site. The gate was then rededicated on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

#### *The First Memorial*

The original memorial, which was dedicated to the men who fought in the 1914-1918 war (as opposed to only those who died in it), was planned to be a gateway landmark to Levin. Located on the corner of Oxford Street and Mako Mako Road, it also served as the entrance to the new Weraroa Domain, a site that had been a gravel reserve until it was turned into a sports ground in 1922.

Originally the memorial was to have been officially opened by the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. W.F. Massey, at 11:30am on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 1923. However, this date proved to clash with the lead-up to an important by-election in Tauranga (held March 28<sup>th</sup>), and Massey was instead electioneering in Tauranga around the time he was originally expected to have been in Levin.<sup>83</sup> The Tauranga electorate's previous MP had died on February 22<sup>nd</sup>,<sup>84</sup> and the unexpected clash of dates had left the memorial's opening day souvenir hand-outs, which had apparently already been printed, with the wrong date on the front cover.

<sup>83</sup> *Evening Post*, 21 March 1923, p. 6; Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tauranga\\_by-election\\_1923](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tauranga_by-election_1923);

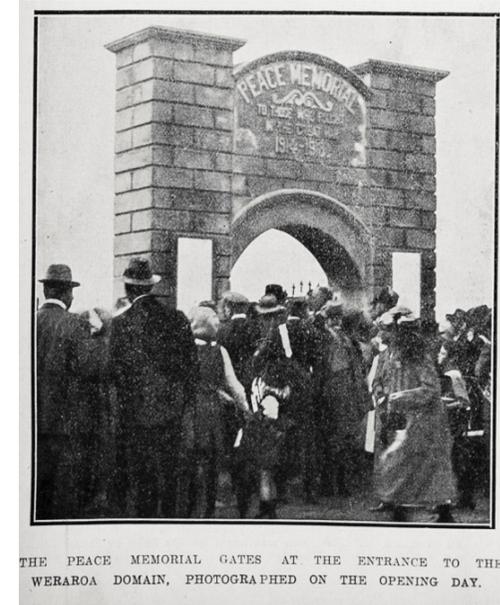
<sup>84</sup> Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Herries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Herries)



Figure 17 A scene from the unveiling the Weraroa Peace Memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1923. The line of young trees in the background will have been the pioneer trees. This photo shows the proximity of the memorial to Oxford Street in the background. The flag being used is the Ngati Huia flag 'Huia', which was also used for the 1903 'Welcome Home' parade following the South African War,<sup>1</sup> thus the use of this particular flag for the memorial unveiling was symbolic in itself. This flag was also flying in a photo of the Kikopiri meeting house, Muhunua West Road, Levin, in around 1910.<sup>1</sup> (Photo: Leslie Adkin. Gift of G. L. Adkin family estate, 1964. Te Papa [B.022273]: <http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/109681>)

Like communities around the world at this time, the people from the Levin area also wanted their own war memorial. Weraroa resident, Thos. L. Walker, had been unable to attend a public meeting on the matter, so wrote his thoughts to the editor of the *Horowhenua Chronicle*.

This letter was duly published on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1919 (p. 3). He wrote: “Now, Sir, the Borough Council have a section of land at the corner of Mako Mako Road and Oxford Street. Why not make that into public gardens, and erect a fine granite column in the midst with the names of our soldiers engraven thereon. What an ideal spot just at the entrance to our town, where those travelling to and from Levin could rest for a while. Then visitors by train would have something to look at instead of the unsightly spectacle it is at present.” He also offered to donate £10 toward the project and also to provide a seat for the garden.



THE PEACE MEMORIAL GATES AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE WERAROA DOMAIN, PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE OPENING DAY.

Figure 16 Another scene from the unveiling the Weraroa Peace Memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1923. (Source: *Auckland Weekly News*, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1923, p. 38 [Record ID: AWNS-19230419-38-3])

A letter from T. Brown was subsequently published in the *Horowhenua Chronicle*, of 6<sup>th</sup> May 1920 (p. 3). He/she was concerned that the matter of a memorial to Levin's war dead was being forgotten. Brown suggested that perhaps a plain wayside cross of hard stone or marble, suitably inscribed, on the side of the main road somewhere between Levin and Weraroa. He/she added that: “There are very good reasons why a cross would form a fitting memorial. Our men marching along the roads of France on their way to and from the trenches would frequently pass roadside crosses, and to many it must have been comforting to think of all that the cross reminded them (of) when they were facing death at the front.” The letter

continued with further thoughts of the role of the cross in the course of the recent war, before the writer remarked that he/she hoped that funds could be subscribed toward the memorial individually. The writer did not approve of fund-raising for such a memorial through public entertainments.

Despite T. Thomas' wishes, the funds used to build the impressive memorial were raised by the Weraroa Mardi Gras Committee. While details of this committee have not been researched here, it probably traced to the Mardi Gras held at Levin in February 1920, the motto of which was "Help to Beautify your Town" – and to subsequent Mardi Gras.<sup>85</sup> A major event of the 1920 Mardi Gras carnival was a procession from Weraroa to Levin. That Mardi Gras raised £1,288 17/5, and amongst the suggestions as to how to spend it, were the Levin war memorial and the recreation ground at Weraroa, where the memorial gate was dedicated three years later.<sup>86</sup>

The structure was formally opened by the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. W.F. Massey, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1923. An audience of over a thousand people, including a large contingent of school children, were present for the occasion. Mr W. Thompson, who had been president of the Weraroa Mardi Gras Committee during its fundraising campaign, stated that Mr Thomas Bevan had superintended the laying out of the grounds and the erection of the fences and gates. Miss Bowen, the Weraroa postmistress, had organised the project, which included a tree memorial to the early settlers. Meanwhile, "Queen Joan" (Miss Joan Bevan, who had been Queen of the 1922 Mardi Gras) had chosen local woman, Mrs Banks, to have the honour of passing the golden key to the new gate, to the Prime Minister. Mrs Banks had been a dedicated war worker and had been personally responsible for the preparation and dispatch of 3,700 garments to the

needy throughout the war. In turn, the golden key had been the gift of Mr L.A. Bowen, formerly of Levin, and by then of Waipukurau.<sup>87</sup>



Figure 18 A close view of the Weraroa Peace Memorial, showing the tablets that were never inscribed. (Source: Horowhenua Historical Society Inc.: User reference: 2004.023.0001: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/images/3908-memorial-gates-at-weraroa-domain>)

After the gate was unlocked and opened, proceedings then moved to the remainder of the dedication at the domain. This consisted of thirteen trees planted in memory of thirteen deceased pioneers of the Levin and Weraroa districts, who had died over the preceding eighteen months. A

<sup>85</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 26 January 1920, p. 3 (2)

<sup>86</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 18 June 1920, p. 2. The Levin Beautifying Society was arranging the dispersal of the Mardi Gras funds. Also: *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 29 June 1920, p. 3

<sup>87</sup> 'Official Opening Day' booklet – misdated 21 March 1923, which had been the intended date for the opening, but which had to be postponed (obtained from Horowhenua District Council or Levin Historical Society records on the topic which I photocopied in 1995-96 - VB); *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 12 April 1923: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/1262-weraroa-peace-gates>

large tablet of beaten bronze mounted on a concrete pedestal that acknowledged the pioneers, was also unveiled at this event.<sup>88</sup> It presumably suffered the same fate as the Peace Memorial, as the present one is a recent replacement.

One feature that continues to intrigue is the lack of any inscription ever put on the two marble tablets on the Peace Memorial. It seems unusual that they were left blank and various possible reasons for this have been suggested. There is nothing mentioned on the matter in contemporary reports sighted during this study. The 'Official Opening' booklet contained a list of the local people who had died during World War One (WWI), and there was nothing to indicate that the monument had been unveiled when incomplete. Suggestions include that it had supposedly been planned to have names and that the names had already gone on the Levin War Memorial that had been unveiled a few days before the Peace Memorial was originally to have been unveiled. However, an alternative could be that the colour white has long been used as a symbol in itself, such as the white flag for truce or ceasefire<sup>89</sup>; while white poppies were distributed in the inter-war period as an alternative to red poppies "as a pledge to peace that war must not happen again."<sup>90</sup> This perspective seems more in keeping with the original intention that the Weraroa structure be a reminder for those who had survived the war, rather than to those dead for whom a great many tragic memorials were also being unveiled around the world.<sup>91</sup>

### **Removal of the Memorial**

By July 1971, the memorial had become an obstacle in the way of plans to widen Oxford Street. After forty-eight years, people had even forgotten the

<sup>88</sup> *Evening Post*, 12 April 1923, p. 10

<sup>89</sup> 'Peace Flag', *Wikipedia*: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_flag) This was the symbol of the anti-war movement in the American Civil War

<sup>90</sup> 'Peace Symbols', *Wikipedia*: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace\\_symbols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_symbols)

<sup>91</sup> Re comments by the Prime Minister, at the unveiling of the memorial, in *Evening Post*, 12 April 1923, 10

reason why it was built in the first place (including the 1971 decision-makers). The *Horowhenua Chronicle* reported an account of its demise under the headline: 'Did Not Have A Peaceful End':

*"The Peace Memorial at Weraroa did not have a peaceful end. It did not 'go quietly' according to someone who witnessed its last moments.*

*"A contractor with a lightweight machine moved in, to give it a first tentative push, expecting little resistance, but the memorial arch wouldn't budge.*

*"After a while a heavy four-wheeled drive vehicle was fetched. Pressure from it moved it slightly, but it was obviously going to be stubborn.*

*"Finally the bases were excavated to something like three feet in depth, and the big machine's bucket was lifted to a high pushing position – and it finally went over with a big 'thump'.*

*"It was then seen that the original concrete construction was solid poured concrete columns and that the blocks of stone had been set around them.*

*"The structure, according to the observer, would obviously have stood firm for many years. 'There is no doubt it was solid, and it went resisting.'"<sup>92</sup>*

After the history of the memorial was published in the *Horowhenua Chronicle* over subsequent days, the newspaper reported that this had "brought to light a surprising lack of knowledge in this quite unique edifice." Some councillors confessed to having had no idea of its significance or of the strong community input to erecting both it and also the stone wall

<sup>92</sup> Clipping from the Horowhenua District Council File: "5107" (title no longer known), which I photocopied in 1995-96 - VB

alongside it. One councillor wished he had known the history earlier in the process.

Another said he had never considered it a war memorial, even though he had lived in Levin all his life. This was because there were no names on the marble plaques and so he thought that the Levin War Memorial had superseded it. It had not been appreciated that this memorial did not commemorate those who had fallen. It was instead “a memorial dedicated to peace in the name, not of those who died, but of those who fought in the Great War of 1914-18, and also linked with the ideals of the pioneers of (the) district.”<sup>93</sup>

The *Horowhenua Chronicle* of 20<sup>th</sup> July 1971 reported that questions had been asked at the previous evening’s Levin Borough Council meeting about the gate and the two marble slabs that had been salvaged from the memorial. The Mayor, Mr C.E. Fuller, advised that the parks and reserves committee had not yet decided what to do with them. Meanwhile, the pieces were being held until a decision was made.<sup>94</sup>

In 1976, a split-stone wall was built at the park and this was intended to honour the fighters of both world wars. However, a plaque stating this has since been removed, due to its having been considered historically inaccurate by Horowhenua’s ‘Adopt an Anzac’ group.<sup>95</sup> This matter was not researched further here.

### **The New Memorial**

After the dismantling of the memorial in 1971, the two plaques and the gate were put into storage. They then disappeared. In 2006, the ‘Adopt an Anzac’ group began researching Horowhenua’s war memorials, including

<sup>93</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 6 July 1971: Clipping from the Horowhenua District Council File: “5107”, which I photocopied in 1995-96 - VB

<sup>94</sup> Clipping of the *Horowhenua Chronicle* of 20 July 1971, from the Horowhenua District Council File: “5107”, which I photocopied in 1995-96 - VB

<sup>95</sup> ‘Weraroa Peace Memorial Gateway’: <http://pemem.webs.com/>

this one. Then in 2012, the *Horowhenua Chronicle* published an article asking if anyone knew where the gate had got to.



Figure 19 The unveiling of the Weraroa Peace Memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Source: Horowhenua District Council’s Facebook page)

This resulted in a Levin man, Colin Russell of CJ Recycling, seeing the article and realising that he had the missing gate in his garden. He had helped clear out an old shed at the Horowhenua District Council’s depot in 2000 and the gate had initially been destined to become scrap. He then passed back the old gate to the ‘Adopt an Anzac’ group. However, by this time the gate had (apparently) lost all the finials across the centre<sup>96</sup>, its two side frames were rusted away; and there were no hinges or latches.<sup>97</sup> The ‘Adopt an Anzac’ group then had the gate

<sup>96</sup> Note that a photo of the gate taken in 2012 showed all the finials in place, but the discrepancy was not researched further.

<sup>97</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 29 October 2014, p. 1: <https://issuu.com/the.star/docs/714302hc/1>

restored at a cost of \$3,000.<sup>98</sup> The fate of two marble plaques from the memorial remains unknown however.



Figure 20 Unveiling the original Weraroa Pioneer Memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1923, immediately after the Peace Memorial had been unveiled. (Source: *Auckland Weekly News*, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1923, p. 38 [Record ID: AWNS-19230419-38-4])



Figure 21 The present Pioneer Memorial in April 2016. Its history was not further researched here.

On the afternoon of Armistice Day (11<sup>th</sup> November) 2014, the Weraroa Memorial Peace gate was officially unveiled and rededicated at the Weraroa Domain, in front of a large crowd.<sup>99</sup> The new memorial is supported on one side by

display board explaining the memorial's history, complete with a photo of the original memorial. On the other side is a second display board listing the names of those men from the area who had been killed. Although the names of the deceased had not been included on the original memorial, and although the living had been more the focus of that memorial, these names had, however, been included in the Official Opening souvenir hand-out.

<sup>98</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 14 November 2014, p. 9: [https://issuu.com/the\\_star/docs/714318hc](https://issuu.com/the_star/docs/714318hc)

<sup>99</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 14 November 2014, p. 9: [https://issuu.com/the\\_star/docs/714318hc](https://issuu.com/the_star/docs/714318hc); See also the Horowhenua District Council Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=491787214296333](https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC/photos/?tab=album&album_id=491787214296333)



Figure 22 This photo, taken in April 2016, shows the present Peace Memorial and Pioneer Memorial at Weraroa Domain, with Oxford Street (State Highway 1) on the right. The 13 poles represent the original 13 trees that were planted in 1923 to represent the 13 pioneers from the district who had died over the preceding 18 months.

The next stage of the restoration of the memorial was to install thirteen poles that were to represent the thirteen recently-deceased pioneers, to whom thirteen trees had originally been dedicated in 1923. A replacement memorial monument to the pioneers has also been reinstalled, although the new monument is of granite and not beaten bronze and its wording also differs from the original.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

**Description**

The cast and wrought iron memorial gates are fixed to concrete posts set into a concrete pad. The gate has an arched upper rail with fleur de lis pickets. Under the upper rail are scrolled arrow points. Into a double central rail are fitted circular wrought iron elements, while underneath are double scrolls between a diagonal.

The gate is set back from the road on solid concrete paving with low timber posts on the street boundary and interpretation plaques either side. A lavender hedge surrounds the paving and extends to the south.

**Setting**

The gate is set at the central eastern edge of the Wereroa Domain, a large, flat grassed playing field. Along the road are regularly spaced trees, representing early pioneers, and under these, to the south, are poles, also representing pioneers. The park is to the south of the commercial area of Levin and to the north of an industrial area. A residential area is located to the west of the park.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The gates have high **local** significance for demonstrating high **historic** and **social** values with low to moderate **architectural**, technological and **setting/group** values.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework the Wereroa Peace Gate is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following theme and subtheme:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military/defence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• War memorial</li> </ul>

**Values**

The gates have high **historic** and **social** values in their function as a peace memorial and a memorial to those who served in World War One. Construction of the memorial was a publicly inspired initiative, with funds raised by the Wereroa Mardi Gras Committee. It was opened by Prime Minister W.F. Massey. It has additional **social** value after a local ‘Adopt an ANZAC’ group discovered the gates, which had been lost for 30 years and then paid for their reconstruction and installation.

The gates have moderate **architectural** values with the design being a simple concept of combining the old gates with new, plain concrete posts set on a small plinth with interpretive plaques either side. The gates have low **technological** values typical of wrought iron work using arrow points, scrolls and fleur de lis designs.

The gates have moderate **setting/group** values being at the centre of the new landscape design integrating the two memorials while also being highly visible on the main road into Levin.

**Measure**

The memorial has low levels of **authenticity** as it has been relocated and little remains but parts of the gates of the original memorial. The original settlers’ memorial, too, has no authenticity as the original trees intended as a memorial were felled and were replaced in the new location 2 years ago with timber poles.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING**

It is recommended that the Weraroa Peace Gate is listed as a Group 2 structure in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

Online Sources including: Papers Past (*Evening Post*, *Horowhenua Chronicle*); online *Horowhenua Chronicle* (2014); Wikipedia; Horowhenua Kete; and Te Papa websites (as per footnotes)

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	M
Social	H	Archaeological	
Architectural	M	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	L		
<b>Significance</b>	National	Regional	<b>Local</b>
<b>Recommended Group</b>			<b>2</b>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

'Official Opening' booklet – misdated 21<sup>st</sup> March 1923 (My photocopy obtained from the Horowhenua District Council file on the topic that in 1995-96 had the reference number "5107") Evidently a number of these were reprinted by the *Horowhenua Chronicle* at the time of the demolition in 1971.

*Auckland Weekly News* (<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/HeritageImages/index.htm>) Search word: "Weraroa"

Horowhenua District Council's Facebook album: 'Weraroa Peace Memorial gate unveiling'

[https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=491787214296333](https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC/photos/?tab=album&album_id=491787214296333)

'Weraroa Memorial Peace Gate':

<http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/1262-weraroa-peace-gates>

'Weraroa Peace Memorial Gateway': <http://pemem.webs.com/>

## H61 - Tokomaru Memorial Gates



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Her Majesty the Queen
<b>Address:</b>	Tokomaru East Road, Tokomaru
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Sections 166-167 Town of Tokomaru
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN148/117
<b>Construction date:</b>	1954
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Her Majesty the Queen
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

Tokomaru has two war memorials. One consists of a pair of Rolls of Honour and the two boards concerned are housed in the Tokomaru Hall. These list the names of all the men from the locality who served in both the First and Second World Wars. They further acknowledge the ones amongst them who were either killed or wounded. The fifty-seven names on the World War One (WWI) Roll include ten killed and 14 wounded. The sixty-two names on the World War Two (WWII) Roll include three killed, while that war's wounded are not identified.<sup>100</sup>

Tokomaru's other war memorial is an archway over the side entrance to the front gate at Tokomaru School and this acknowledges the losses in both wars. The archway has no names on it, but has the years that the two wars began and ended and also has the words "Pro Patria" across the top of the arch. This term is Latin for "For One's Country."<sup>101</sup>

Biographies of many of the men whose names appear on the Rolls of Honour at the Tokomaru Hall, along with an article (see below) from the *Manawatu Standard* of 8<sup>th</sup> April 1954 (p. 9 [& photos p. 7]); describing the archway's dedication ceremony appear in Colin Stevenson's book, *Tokomaru School and District Centenary 1893-1993* (pp. 201-246). The ceremonial duties had occurred on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1954 and had been undertaken by the Governor-General, Sir Charles Willoughby Moke Norrie, and his wife, Lady Norrie.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>100</sup> Colin Stevenson, *Tokomaru School and District Centenary 1893-1993* (Tokomaru, 1993), pp. 201 & 218; Also: Tokomaru Honours Board, on Kete Horowhenua:

<http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/show/1231-tokomaru-honours-board>

<sup>101</sup> *The Free Dictionary*: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/pro+patria>

<sup>102</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography*: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/norrie-sir-charles-willoughby-moke-11254>

**Ceremony at Tokomaru  
Governor-General opens Memorial Gates at School**

*“In memory of all those who fell and all those who served.” The memorial gates at the Tokomaru School were yesterday opened by the Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie. The gates are of simple but impressive design and bear the words, “Pro Patria—1914-1918 (and) 1935-1945.” After the gates had been dedicated, Lady Norrie cut the ribbon, and His Excellency opened the gates.*

*On his arrival at Tokomaru at 2.45pm, the Governor-General inspected a guard-of-honour of local ex-service-men under the command of Mr G.E. Allright. After the official party had mounted the dais beside the memorial gates, Patricia Waghorn presented a bouquet to her Excellency.*

*Mr A. Woodd, President of the Home and School Association, extended a cordial welcome to their Excellencies on behalf on behalf of the association and the people of Tokomaru who, he said, were fortunate to have the Governor-General present to open the memorial gates. The memorial was to those who served their country and made the supreme sacrifice and to those who served and returned. Thanks were due to the people of the district who subscribed to the funds necessary to erect the gates, he said.*

*Mr J.A.V. O’Hagan, chairman of the Tokomaru School Committee, thanked the Home and School Association and the people of Tokomaru for supporting the school so generously.*

*Mr V. Cottle, a member of the Wellington Education Board, said the gates were erected in an appropriate position, for they would be an everlasting reminder to the children passing through them each day of*

*the sacrifice that men had made so that the British way of life could go on.*

*Mr V. Belgrave then sounded the Last Post and the crowd sang two verses of the hymn, “O God Our Help in Ages Past.” A prayer followed and the Rev, H.G. Boniface dedicated the gates.*

**“Human Endeavour.”**

*His Excellency congratulated the Tokomaru area on producing so many members of the guard-of-honour. He was glad, he said, that so many children were present because it was they who should remember what was taking place that afternoon.*

*They were gathered to commemorate and honour the human endeavour of those who lived in the Tokomaru district and began their education at the school, said Sir Willoughby. To the parents and relatives they owed a full measure of gratitude and admiration, he continued. They gave unflinchingly and without question.*

*Those who fought and those who died and cherished the hope that it was a war to end wars.*

*“However, a new world cannot come until we ourselves change,” His Excellency declared. “A changed world means changed people and the only way to change people is through some power outside ourselves and, above all living in the presence of God.”*

*The Governor-General said it was his privilege to have served alongside New Zealanders in both world wars when he learned much of their gallantry in battle. No troops could have fought better or more valiantly.*

*Lady Norrie then cut the ribbon and his Excellency opened the gates and laid a wreath which was brought forward by Barbara Gordon. The National Anthem concluded an impressive service.*

*The Governor-General, Lady Norrie, and Miss Rosemary Norrie, before their departure, spent some time talking to the children and adults. His Excellency again won the hearts of the children by exercising his prerogative and declaring a school holiday today. Before his departure from Tokomaru, Sir Willoughby visited the returned servicemen’s rooms.<sup>103</sup>*



Figure 23 The Governor-General and Lady Norrie during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the memorial archway at Tokomaru School on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1954. (Source: Stevenson, p. 245)

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The gates form the entranceway to Tokomaru School to the south and are located on Tokomaru East Road. They comprise rough cast rendered posts and a shallow connecting arch. Under the arch is a single metal gate that gives access to a footpath to the school. On the northern most post are the letters “1914-18” and on the southern most post “1929-45”. The archway has “Pro Patria” in projecting letters. To the south is another lower rendered post for double gates giving vehicular access to the school. Either side of the gates are galvanised pipe and wire mesh fences.

### Setting

To the south east of the gates is the school and bike shed in a flat, grassed setting; while on the opposite side of the road is a large grassed paddock. The small settlement of Tokomaru comprising houses, a store and fire station are to the south west of the school.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The gates have high **local** significance for demonstrating high **historic** and **social** values with moderate **architectural, technological, setting** and **group** values.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework the Tokomaru Memorial Gates are in the Post-Contact Group and are considered to be representative of the following theme and subtheme:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military/defence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• War memorial</li> </ul>

<sup>103</sup> Stevenson, p. 245; this copy: ‘Ceremony at Tokomaru’, in Kete Hokowhenua: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/315/preview?version=8>

**Values**

The gates have high **historic** and **social** values in their function as a memorial to World War One and Two and in their historic association with Tokomoaru School. The design and location was chosen as a daily reminder to school children of the sacrifice of those who served in the wars and who were either killed or returned.

The gates have moderate **architectural**, **technological** and **group** values being representative in their general design, use of materials and location of many memorial gates within or close to school grounds that were erected throughout New Zealand. Many standalone memorials were also erected close to schools.

The gates have moderate **setting** values in their location and visibility on a main road between Shannon and Palmerston North.

**Measure**

The gates appear to have high levels of **authenticity**, while also having a high level of **integrity**.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING**

It is recommended that the Tokomaru Memorial Gates are listed as a Group 2 structure in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	M
Social	H	Archaeological	
Architectural	M	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	M		

Significance	National	Regional	Local
<b>Recommended Group</b>			<b>2</b>

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Stevenson, Colin, *Tokomaru School and District Centenary 1893-1993* (Tokomaru, 1993)

Other online sources: 'The Free Dictionary' (as per footnotes)

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H62 - Moutoa Memorial Gates



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Horowhenua District Council
<b>Address:</b>	1058 Foxton-Shannon Road, Moutoa
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Section 21 Block VII Mt Robinson Survey District
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN56A/891
<b>Construction date:</b>	1925
<b>Architect:</b>	N/a
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Moutoa School
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The Moutoa war memorial gates once marked the entrance to the Moutoa School. While it was not possible from the limited sources sighted, to find an actual chronology relating to the school, a notice was published in the *Manawatu Times* of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1877 (p. 3), seeking tenders to erect the school buildings. Possibly its first teacher was Miss Roberts, who was transferred to Stoney Creek (now Whakarongo) School in about August 1878.<sup>104</sup> The same Wanganui Education Board meeting also approved getting the school's grounds fenced, while in April 1880, tenders were called to repair fences, erect outhouses and to undertake other work at the school.<sup>105</sup>

By 1897, when Volume One of the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* was published, Moutoa School was described as a single-storey, one classroom wooden building capable of holding thirty to forty pupils. The master's house was also situated on the one-acre property, which included a large playground. At that time there were twenty-four pupils on the roll, who ranged between Standards One to Six.<sup>106</sup>

By 1916, the Wanganui Education Board was considering moving the school to a new site at Marotiri, which is in the vicinity of Kere Kere Road, and thus much closer to Foxton. However, in January 1916, Messrs Greig and Carter took part in a deputation of protest, duly advising the Board that by moving the school, some forty children now attending the school, would be considerably inconvenienced. In fact this was possibly Harry Greig, managing director of the nearby Whitaunui Flaxmill that had staff with families living at the mill. Mr Carter was a large-scale farmer whose property was also close to the school. The Board decided to arrange a

<sup>104</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 2 August 1878, p. 2

<sup>105</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 2 August 1878, p. 2; *Manawatu Herald*, 16 April 1880, p. 3

<sup>106</sup> *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, Vol. 1 (Wellington, 1897):

<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc01Cycl-t1-body-d4-d127-d2.html>

meeting with some representative Moutoa settlers to discuss the matter,<sup>107</sup> and this meeting occurred in July 1916, with some thirty residents meeting the Wanganui Education Board party.<sup>108</sup>

By May 1918, it was being recommended that a school be built at Marotiri to accommodate forty pupils. By then Moutoa School consisted of two classrooms and it was considered that one of the Moutoa rooms could be moved to Marotiri, if the attendance at that school required it. This was because Moutoa's roll would drop significantly after the departure of its present Marotiri pupils. In January 1919, the Wanganui Education Board approved the removal of Moutoa School to a new central site, instead of erecting a new school at Marotiri.<sup>109</sup>

While the situation surrounding the proposed relocation of the Moutoa School was not further researched here, it seems almost fairly certain that the matter was subsequently dropped. Certainly Moutoa School seems to have remained in its original location for some years thereafter. It also appears that there was never a 'Marotiri School' in this area,<sup>110</sup> although such a 'replacement school' might have had a different name.

### ***The Unveiling Ceremony***

The Moutoa School war memorial tablet was unveiled on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 1925, in front a large attendance of people from around the district. The *Manawatu Herald* of 16<sup>th</sup> July 1925 reported that the unveiling ceremony was performed by Mr J. Linklater, M.P. The memorial was described as gates at the school's entrance with a tablet on one gatepost, with the names of the soldiers from the district. The plaque was described

<sup>107</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 17 January 1916, p. 7

<sup>108</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 13 July 1916, p. 4. See also: *Wanganui Chronicle*, 2 August 1916, p. 6, & *Feilding Star*, 21 April 1917, p. 2

<sup>109</sup> *Feilding Star*, 15 May 1918, p. 4; *Manawatu Standard*, 18 January 1919, p. 2

<sup>110</sup> Archives NZ's 'Archway' website lists a 'Marotiri School' – but it is in the Taupo area: <https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/>

as “an artistic piece of work and one of which coming generations may justly feel proud of.” The “very impressive” ceremony was held in front of the gates. In the course of his speech, Mr Linklater stated that “no memorial is necessary to remind the men and women of today of the men who left this district, but the erection of this tablet would serve as a fitting reminder to the children of Moutoa School and the children of tomorrow.”

Linklater also “urged the children never to forget the sacrifice that those men gave in defence of the Empire, in order that the liberty of the people should continue. The names of the men who fell in the war were inscribed on the tablet, but their graves are scattered all around the earth and the graves of men who have died for their country make a continuous chain of British and Allied soldiers' graves. These men gave us our freedom, and he impressed upon his hearers the great need for loyalty to our King and country and traditions, and so keep our Great Empire from being disrupted by those who seek its disintegration. By so doing we should be true to our comrades and their sacrifice would not be in vain. Could these men but speak today, he felt sure their cry would be: ‘We died that you might live; Then live worthily; Live not for thyself, but for thy fellowmen; Thy Country and thy God.’”

Linklater then expressed admiration for the boys who had left New Zealand; admiration for their mothers who sent them; and for the nurses who attended the sick and suffering. He then unveiled the tablet. After the ceremonial activities, the school committee chairman (Mr Verity) described how the funds were raised to cover the cost of the memorial, but unfortunately that information was not published in the article.<sup>111</sup>

The text on the marble plaque reads: “These gates were erected in memory of the boys who left Moutoa and were killed in the war 1914-

<sup>111</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 16 July 1925, 'War Memorial at Moutoa'; the edition of 11 July 1925 had also published an invitation to the unveiling. See also: 'Moutoa Memorial Gates': <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/331-moutoa-memorial-gates>

1918.” This is followed by the names of the twelve men, and then by: “Unveiled July 13, 1925, by J. Linklater, M.P.”

Of the twelve names on the memorial, eleven are traceable, although two names have had their spelling corrected with the addition of a second marble plaque placed below the original one in recent times.<sup>112</sup> The remaining name that seems not to have been traced is “Campbell, W.” It is noteworthy that there was a “Campbell” on the Moutoa School Committee in 1919, while Duncan Henry Campbell and family lived in the Moutoa-Marotiri area throughout this period and beyond.<sup>113</sup>

Of the remaining eleven identified men, two are recorded as having been employees at the nearby Whitaunui Flaxmill. These were Stanley Clifford Johnston (killed in action on the Somme on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1916) and Alexander MacDonald (killed in action at Passchendaele on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917). Some of the others had been employees of other local flaxmills.

Four of the men died at or as a result of the Gallipoli campaign: Frederick Alfred Gibbons (KIA, 5<sup>th</sup> June 1915), Harold Clarence Prosser (KIA, 6-7<sup>th</sup> August 1915), Mostyn Llewellyn Poole (KIA, 28<sup>th</sup> August 1915), and John William Neilsen (died of wounds, Malta, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1915).

Four more were killed in action in France: Cameron Bell (27<sup>th</sup> September 1916), Oliver Olsen (18<sup>th</sup> December 1916), Francis Bernard Smith (24<sup>th</sup> August 1918), and Francis Hall (4<sup>th</sup> November 1918 – seven days before

<sup>112</sup> ‘The Men listed on the Moutoa Gates,’ Kete Horowhenua:

<http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/site/topics/show/1490-men-listed-on-moutoa-gates> Also the ‘Adopt an Anzac’ project: [http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/adopt\\_an\\_anzac/topics/41-adopt-an-anzac](http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/adopt_an_anzac/topics/41-adopt-an-anzac)

<sup>113</sup> For example, *Manawatu Standard*, 7 June 1910, ‘Collision with motor car’, & 1 May 1919, p. 2, ‘Householders’ Meetings’; Foxton Cemetery online record: <http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Cemeteries/Cemetery-Search-Results/?record=9169>

hostilities ceased). Lastly, Cornelius Frederick Bowe was killed in action at Messines, Belgium, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1917.<sup>114</sup>

### **Events since the Unveiling**

The date that the school finally closed has not been closely researched in this instance, however the Archives New Zealand website ‘Archway’ indicates that records on the school’s buildings, that are filed under the Education Department, are dated up to 1946. Meanwhile files relating to the Moutoa Recreational Reserve (described as formerly a site for a school and hall) date from 1945.<sup>115</sup>

A closure around the time of World War Two (WWII) suggests why there is no additional memorial on the school gates to recognise the district’s WWII losses. Another pointer is the presence of the school part way between the Whitaunui Military Defaulters’ Camp (formerly Whitaunui Flaxmill) about 1 km away, and Springs Road, about 2 kilometres away, where the Paiako Military Detention Camp was located. Having a small rural primary school in such close proximity to two detention camps accommodating a total of around 250 prisoners, plus their guards, seems likely to have been the death knell of the school, if it had in fact survived into the 1940s. On the other hand, the school’s war memorial would have typically been viewed by the authorities as a reminder to the detainees and their loved ones who passed en route to and from Shannon and its railway station (some 5 kms away) of the losses this community had suffered in the earlier war.

The origin of the district halls on this site traces to a meeting held at the Whitaunui flaxmill on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1912, to discuss the possibility of building

<sup>114</sup> ‘Adopt an Anzac’: [http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/adopt\\_an\\_anzac/topics/41-adopt-an-anzac](http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/adopt_an_anzac/topics/41-adopt-an-anzac) and also ‘Online Cenotaph database’: <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/search>

<sup>115</sup> Archives NZ: ‘Archway’ database, search-word ‘Moutoa School’: <https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/>

a hall. The estimated cost of the proposed building was £200. However, with the start of the First World War, the funds were diverted into war relief. After the war, a new fund-raising drive began and the first hall was built in 1922.<sup>116</sup>



Figure 24 The first Moutoa Hall in the background beyond the Moutoa War Memorial Gates, 21<sup>st</sup> February 1996. This hall was destroyed by fire in 2007. (Photo: Val Burr)

In November 1996, the Moutoa district celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with the hall being a focus of the event.<sup>117</sup> While the war memorial had been merely three gate posts, three gates and the memorial plaque on one of the gateposts, possibly for many decades, between February 1996 (when I took my original photos of the gates) and April 1998, the memorial's setting was dramatically upgraded. A concrete wall was added to the side of the gates closest to the hall and many memorial plaques

<sup>116</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 25 July 2014, p. 22

<sup>117</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 12 April 1996, & feature article 16 November 1996, p. 12

were added recalling early settlers. Atop the wall are the words 'Moutoa Memorial Wall.' The upgraded memorial was then unveiled by Horowhenua District Council Mayor, Tom Robinson, on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1998.<sup>118</sup>

In the early afternoon of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007, the old hall was destroyed by fire that resulted from an electrical fault, with only some tables and chairs being salvaged.<sup>119</sup> By November 2008, plans were underway to build a new hall on the site, at a cost of \$275,000.<sup>120</sup> The new steel-framed hall was due to open in the winter of 2011.<sup>121</sup>

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The memorial gates comprise a concrete wall with one single gate and a double gate, constructed of wrought iron to the south. The concrete wall has a number of bronze plaques with galvanised steel lettering "Moutoa Memorial Wall" fixed within a rectangular frame. The posts to the gates are rough cast and have shallow pyramidal caps. There are white marble plaques on the central post. Both gates have a shallow curved top rail and a flat central and lower rail. There are two levels of fleur de lis, also known as curls, styled pickets; extending to the middle and upper rails. The outer and meeting styles have scrolls.

<sup>118</sup> 'Moutoa War Memorial': <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/moutoa-first-world-war-memorial> (Ministry for Culture and Heritage)

<sup>119</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 22 March 2007, p. 1

<sup>120</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 19 November 2008: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/725240/Green-light-for-hall-rebuild>

<sup>121</sup> *Horowhenua Mail*, 5 May 2011: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/local-papers/horowhenua-mail/4967593/Halls-failing-to-pay-their-way>

**Setting**

The gates are on the road boundary of a large, flat, grassed paddock (the former school site) and parking area for the local community hall. Surrounding the site is farm land.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The gates have **local** significance for demonstrating high **historical** and **social** values with moderate **architectural, technological** and **group** values. They have low **setting** values.

When assessed against Council's Thematic Framework the Moutoa Memorial Gates are in the Post-Contact Group and are considered to be representative of the following theme and subtheme:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Military/defence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>War memorial</li> </ul>

**Values**

The gates have high **historic** and **social** values in their function as a World War One memorial and in their historic associations with the now demolished Moutoa School and the original and current Moutoa Halls. The memorial gates were built in recognition of twelve local men who were killed on active service during World War One and are now over 90 years old. The names of the soldiers are included on a plaque on the gate posts. The later concrete wall includes the names of early settlers in the area.

The gates have moderate **architectural, technological** and **group** values being representative in their general design, use of materials and location of many memorial gates that were erected as war memorials throughout New Zealand. Many standalone memorials were also erected close to school grounds. The wrought iron curls and scrolls and their method of manufacture demonstrate a centuries old technology.

The gates have low **setting** values as, while they are visible as a memorial with a clear association to the hall; both the hall and the gates are located on a local, rural road.

**Measure**

The gates appear to have low to moderate levels of **authenticity**, while also having a high level of **integrity**.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING**

It is recommended that the original memorial gates are listed as a Group 2 structure in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	L-M
Social	H	Archaeological	*
Architectural	M	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	M		
<b>Significance</b>	National	Regional	<b>Local</b>
<b>Recommended Group</b>			<b>2</b>

\* An archaeological investigation has not been undertaken as part of the assessment of the site that the gates are located on. Given that the former school was established on the site in the late 1870s it is possible that the site may have archaeological values as it is associated with pre-1900 human activity.

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(as per footnotes)

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<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc01Cycl-t1-body-d4-d127-d2.html>

Other Online Sources including: Papers Past (*Feilding Star*, *Horowhenua Chronicle*, *Horowhenua Mail*, *Manawatu Herald*, *Manawatu Standard*, *Manawatu Times*, *Wanganui Chronicle*, *Wanganui Herald*); Horowhenua Kete (various as per footnotes)

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H63 - Foxton War Memorial



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Horowhenua District Council
<b>Address:</b>	Corner of Ravensworth Place and Main Street, Foxton
<b>Legal Description:</b>	No legal description (Road Reserve)
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	No Certificate of Title
<b>Construction date:</b>	1920
<b>Architect:</b>	Messrs F.J. and W.H. Jones
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Foxton Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Committee (on behalf of community)
<b>Builder:</b>	Messrs F.J. and W.H. Jones

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The Foxton War Memorial dates to a public meeting held in early November 1919. Accordingly, the *Manawatu Herald* of Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 1919 recorded the following:

#### **“FOXTON SOLDIERS’ AND PEACE MEMORIAL”**

*“A PUBLIC meeting is convened by the Mayor for Tuesday evening next, at the Council Chambers to discuss ways and means of erecting a suitable memorial to those who took part in the Great War, and to commemorate the signing of Peace.*

*“The Mayor has given this subject a good deal of thought, and has been in communication with monumental masons to ascertain the cost of a suitable monument. Mr Chrystall is anxious that Foxton should not be behind other towns in doing something which will mark the great sacrifices made by our boys – many of whom made the supreme sacrifice and to inspire a feeling of loyalty and patriotism in generations to come.*

*“The first point to consider is the nature of the memorial and its location. It has been suggested in these columns that an obelisk be erected on the commanding site in the old cemetery. Other suggestions are memorial gates leading to the ground donated by Mr Easton as a park, and a Band Rotunda. With respect to the site we believe the old cemetery should be chosen for obvious reasons.*

*“The acquisition of this site by the Council is a mere matter of form, and claim to ownership if any, by the Natives, could be easily adjusted. Details of this nature will be discussed and settled at Tuesday night’s meeting, when it is hoped there will be a large and representative gathering in attendance.”*

The *Manawatu Herald* of 6<sup>th</sup> November 1919 then reported accordingly:

### **SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL**

*“There can be two opinions as to the wisdom of the public meeting on Thursday night in deciding that Foxton’s tribute to local soldiers’ who made the supreme sacrifice should take the form of a suitable monument in the main thoroughfare. Provision has been made to do the right thing by those who came through the war with their life, and large sums of money are held in trust to assist the sick and wounded and dependants, but the honoured dead must not be forgotten. In speaking on this point at the public meeting, one returned soldier said: ‘Those of us who came through the ordeal of war were fortunate, and are glad to be back with our loved ones and friends, but we can never forget our comrades who fell, and what we saw, and what they did for us.’*

*“The returned soldier, while grateful for all that has and is being done on his behalf, would willingly sacrifice much to keep green the memory of the honoured dead. This applies with greater force to all who remained at home in safety, and we feel confident that a generous public will give the Mayor and his Committee, who have the details in hand, practical support in erecting a suitable memorial.*

*“The site chosen for the monument is the Triangle at the north end of Main Street, and the memorial will take the form of an obelisk rising from a suitable base. We have no doubt that a generous public will subscribe freely and liberally to the movement.”*

Fundraising then began, and the *Manawatu Herald* of 15<sup>th</sup> November 1919 reported that:

*“A meeting of the (Fallen Soldiers Memorial) Committee...was held in the Red Shield Club last night. It was decided to circularise the public, soliciting funds for the proposed memorial, and matters in connection*

*with same were discussed. A further meeting is to be held next Friday night. Donations may be forwarded to the Mayor, or to the Fund Secretary, Mr Hornblow.”*

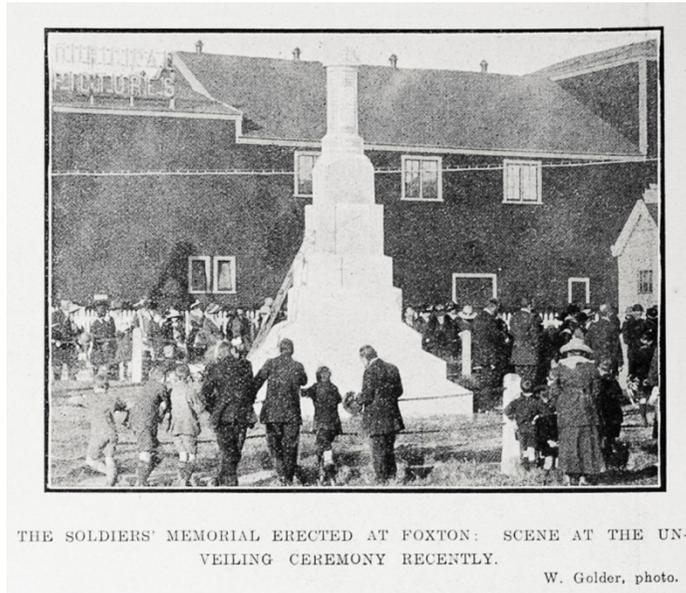
On 13<sup>th</sup> January 1920, the *Manawatu Herald* published a progress report on the fundraising for the memorial:

*“ELSEWHERE in this issue will be found the full list of contributors to the Fallen Soldiers’ Memorial Fund. So far no canvas has been made for the fund, and those contributing have done so voluntarily. Owing to the holidays, many have overlooked the fund, and will no doubt send along their contributions before the fund closes at the end of this month. The objective aimed at was £500, and surely this is little enough to put into a lasting memorial for those who paid the supreme sacrifice. There has been a difference of opinion as to the form of this memorial, some advocating swimming baths, and others a band rotunda in Easton Park. Anyhow, the meeting decided to erect an obelisk in the Triangle Reserve in Main Street, and all, we feel sure, will fall in with the proposal. To those who desire to assist we make this appeal to send in their contributions as early as possible, in order that the memorial may be erected and unveiled on Anzac Day.”*

The information published on the Horowhenua.kete.net.nz website in relation to the memorial, records a lengthy list of donors that was published in the *Manawatu Herald* of 15<sup>th</sup> January 1920. This records a wide range of donations, ranging from Frank Robinson donating £40, down to a few shillings.<sup>122</sup>

<sup>122</sup> ‘History of the Foxton War Memorial’:

<http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/documents/215-history-of-the-foxton-war-memorial>



THE SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL ERECTED AT FOXTON: SCENE AT THE UNVEILING CEREMONY RECENTLY. W. Golder, photo.

Figure 25 The unveiling of the Foxton War Memorial in early June 1920, with the Town Hall and a bit of the courthouse in the background. (Photo: *Auckland Weekly News*, 17<sup>th</sup> June 1920, p. 35)

The *Manawatu Herald* of 28<sup>th</sup> February 1920 (p. 2) then recorded that:

*“At a meeting of the Fallen Soldiers’ Memorial Committee held last night (the Mayor presiding), it was decided to ask Messrs Jones, Fisher and McMinn, the three monumental firms who submitted designs, to confer with the Committee on Thursday evening next, before accepting one of the offers.”*

The Feilding firm, Messrs F.J. and W.H. Jones, became the successful bidder for the Foxton memorial. Accordingly, the *Manawatu Standard* of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1920 (p. 4) reported that:

*“The foundation for the fallen soldiers’ memorial at Foxton is now being put down by a Feilding firm. The completed monument will stand 18 feet above the ground surface, with a very handsome appearance, and will show to great advantage facing down Main Street.”*



Figure 26 The unveiling of the Foxton War Memorial in early June 1920, photographed from Ihakara Gardens. (Source: Foxton Historical Society<sup>1</sup>)

The *Manawatu Herald* of 28<sup>th</sup> April 1920 subsequently published a detailed account of the new memorial:

**FOXTON - FALLEN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL: Description of Monument**

*“The foundation of the Fallen Soldiers’ Monument now being erected in the triangle by Messrs F.J. and W.H. Jones, monumental masons, of Feilding, consists of five reinforced concrete and plastered bases, the first, or lower base being well embedded below the ground surface, is 10ft square, with reinforced ties or bars running cornerwise. Each base in turn being reinforced.*

*“The whole of this concrete work stands over 7ft in height.*

*“Next above these bases comes two huge bases in grey New Zealand granite, the lower of these two bases has four polished pillars, and the top base has all four sides polished. This grey granite is worked and polished in Auckland, and is found to be equal to the well know Scotch granite, and is absolutely imperishable.*

*“Above these New Zealand granite bases is the monument in Red Scotch granite, a circular and very highly polished piece of stone in three pieces. The bottom base has four panels, on which are inscribed, in bold letters, four mottoes: North side, “For Freedom’s Cause.” East side, “Greater Love hath no Man.” South side, “For God, King and Country.” West side, “Their Duty Nobly Done.”*

*“On the main circular shaft are four panels, and the inscription, “To perpetuate the memory of the following, who gave their lives for God, King and Country in the great war 1914-1918,” inscribed on the East panel, then follow the names of the men who made the supreme sacrifice, divided between the north and south panels. The surmounting cap is finished with four gables and is traced with a design in each gable. The completed monument will stand 18 feet*

*above the ground surface, and has a very handsome appearance, and will show to great advantage facing down the Main Street.”<sup>123</sup>*

The next milestone in the memorial’s story appeared in the *Manawatu Herald*, although there is a discrepancy with the date of the event. The [kete.horowhenua.net.nz](http://kete.horowhenua.net.nz) website states that this newspaper was published on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1920; however, that date was a Thursday. Possibly the newspaper was instead dated Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 1920. Meanwhile the Archives Central website states that the Foxton War Memorial was unveiled on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1920, which was a Tuesday.<sup>124</sup> The following article states that the unveiling occurred on a Thursday, presumably the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1920. This article then describes the unveiling of the monument:

*“The Fallen Soldiers’ Memorial, erected by local citizens in the triangle reserve, was unveiled by the Mayor (Mr John Chrystall) in the presence of a large concourse of people on Thursday afternoon.*

*“The proceedings opened with the hymn, ‘O God our Help in Ages Past.’ The Mayor then unveiled the Memorial and paid a tribute to the memory of the honoured dead. The Rev Thomas Halliday offered up a dedication prayer. The hymn, ‘Rock of Ages’ was sung. The Rev Mr Raine delivered a short and appropriate address. He said: “We have with us the spirits of those men who fought and died for us - ‘wherefore, seeing that we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses,’ let us be worthy of their sacrifice. This column will stand as a perpetual memory of the glorious past. When your children pass this stone and ask what does this mean, we surely must reply:*

<sup>123</sup> ‘History of the Foxton War Memorial,’

<http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/documents/215-history-of-the-foxton-war-memorial>

<sup>124</sup> ‘WWI: Council do their bit: Remembering the dead’:

<http://archivescentral.org.nz/exhibitions/topics/show/120926-ww1-councils-do-their-bit-remembering-the-dead>

“(1) That this stone stands as an ever reminder of Almighty God, because he gave us the victory.

“(2) Of the noble sacrifice made by young men of New Zealand for King, Empire and Honour.”

“The hymn, “For all the Saints,” was then sung, after which the “Last Post” was played by Mr Beale. The Benediction and National Anthem concluded a very impressive ceremony. The Salvation Army band accompanied the singing.

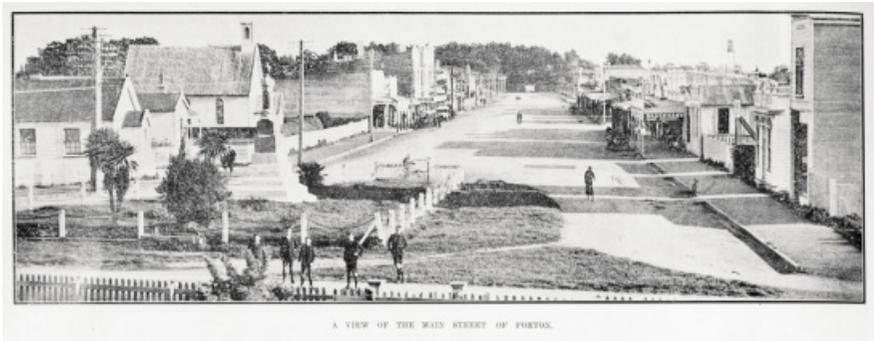


Figure 27 The triangle at Foxton, complete with the new war memorial (Photo: *Auckland Weekly News*, 28<sup>th</sup> October 1920, p. 32)

The book *Foxton 1888-1988: The First 100 Years* (p. 53, 55) records that after World War Two (WWII) various proposals were put forward on how to honour those who had fallen in that war. The Returned Servicemen Association (RSA) wanted to add a memorial tablet to the existing memorial instead of the various other options being suggested, but in the end the Foxton Memorial Hall was erected to accommodate a WWII memorial board. This building was officially then opened on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1954.

In 1998, the names of the local WWII and Vietnam servicemen who had lost their lives during those wars were finally added to the war memorial, despite these men’s names having long been recorded on the honours board at the Foxton Memorial Hall. The new work was then unveiled on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1998.<sup>125</sup> The memorial now records the names of the 22 original World War One (WWI) men, plus another five names of WWI men on an additional plaque, along with 18 men lost during WWII, and another lost in the Vietnam War.<sup>126</sup>

A series of photos indicate that the memorial has been damaged at some point, and then repaired sometime after 1996. While the matter was not researched here, the 1998 upgrade seems a likely time. The urn on the top of the memorial had been turned upside down and then it was either repaired or replaced after January 1996.

In 2015-16 consideration was being given to moving the war memorial a short distance as part of a street upgrade.<sup>127</sup>

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The memorial comprises a painted, stepped and chamfered rendered plinth on which stands a grey granite, stepped pedestal on which is a column of red granite. This has stylised acanthus capitals with an urn on top of the column. There are inscriptions fixed to the base of the pedestal.

In memorial designs, the urn symbolises death and rebirth while the column represents life or mortality. The more common broken column symbolises a life cut short.

<sup>125</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 24 April 1998, p. 3

<sup>126</sup> ‘Foxton War Memorial Names: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/1233-foxton-war-memorial-names>

<sup>127</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 21 April 2015, p. 2 & 9 March 2016, p. 3



Figure 28 The War Memorial forming the backdrop behind the dias on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1921, at the time of the visit of the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe, and his wife to the town. The Governor-General unveiled Rongotea’s war memorial later the same day. Given the status of the various V.I.P.s who unveiled other war-related memorials around this time, perhaps the highlighting of the memorial during this visit, was in part to compensate for Foxton having only had its mayor to do the honours the previous year.<sup>1</sup> The Town Hall is in the background at right. (Photo: ‘Visit of Lord Jellicoe’<sup>1</sup>)

**Setting**

The memorial is located in a grassed, triangular traffic island at the northern end of Main Street, Foxton. To the north of the memorial is Ihakara Gardens and at the opposite end of the street is the small hill which comprises the Seaview Gardens, in which the Foxton water tower is situated.

The generously wide Main Street extends from Ihakara Gardens in the north, to Seaview Gardens in the south. Both gardens are on small hills

and visually contain the street. Shops in the commercial area are either single or two storeyed and date mainly from the Edwardian period. There are several discrete blocks of shops as well as several residential buildings and two churches. Visually dominating the street is the Windmill, which is located south of the memorial and to the west of the street.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The memorial has **local** significance for demonstrating high **historic, social** and **group/setting** values with moderate **architectural** and **technological** values. The memorial is representative of the post-contact military/defence theme.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework the Foxton War Memorial is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following theme and subtheme:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military/Defence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• War memorial</li> </ul>

**Values**

The memorial has high **historic** and **social** values in its function as a memorial to soldiers killed in WWI with memorials added later to soldiers killed in WWII and the Vietnam War.

The memorial has moderate **architectural** and **technological** values being representative in general design and use of materials of the many structures erected as war memorials throughout New Zealand. The design follows that of many others comprising a column, representing life or mortality, topped by an urn symbolising death and rebirth. Granite was a common material for the shafts and urns of these memorials.

The structure is one of many war memorials constructed throughout the country commemorating WWI, WWII and other wars, contributing to it have high **group** values. The site has high **setting** values as a visually prominent landmark at the northern end of the Foxton commercial centre.

### Measure

The memorial and setting have high levels of **authenticity**. It has a high level of **integrity**.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the Foxton War Memorial is listed as a Group 2 structure in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

### ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	H
Social	H	Archaeological	*
Architectural	M	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	M		
<b>Significance</b>	National	Regional	<b>Local</b>
<b>Recommended Group</b>			<b>2</b>

\* An archaeological investigation has not been undertaken as part of the assessment of the memorial site; it is possible that it may have archaeological values given that the site is associated with pre-1900 human activity.

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(Search words: 'Foxton memorial' and 'Main Street Foxton')

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H64 - Former Manawatu Herald Building



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Owner:</b>	James (Jim) and Sarah Harper
<b>Address:</b>	6 Main Street, Foxton
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Part Section 100 Town of Foxton
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN20/92 (April 1880). Prior: WN16/248 (Jan. 1879)
<b>Construction date:</b>	circa 1879
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Ernest Thynne & James Linton <u>or</u> George Warren Russell & John Ruffell Russell
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The main significance of this building is its lengthy association with Foxton's newspaper, the *Manawatu Herald*, which was printed there between 1879 and about 1968-69.<sup>128</sup>

Over its lifetime the front building has had a number of different façade and it's noted that the building's most recent significant change has been the re-creation in 2016 of its second-known façade. The building also still contains many items of its own former printery equipment and now serves as a display area for both this equipment and its current owners' mechanical musical instrument collection.

#### *The Manawatu Herald*

The *Manawatu Herald* was the first newspaper published in Foxton, although an unsuccessful attempt had been made in 1873 to publish a bi-weekly paper called the *Manawatu Guardian*.<sup>129</sup> Initially the *Herald* was published bi-weekly and then three times per week from September 1890.<sup>130</sup> However, it was out of production between February 1943 and September 1944, after which it resumed as a bi-weekly. It then became a weekly from 1956. In 1955, its title was altered to '*Foxton Herald*', before reverting to '*Manawatu Herald*' again in 1961.<sup>131</sup> It ceased publication in 1997.<sup>132</sup>

<sup>128</sup> Interview with John Read, 9 June 2016

<sup>129</sup> The *Manawatu Guardian* was to be published by "Mr A.J. Hoskins, formerly of the *Blenheim Evening Post*." This was Arthur James Hoskins (1848-1904), whose connection with Foxton was that his sister, Lydia Harris Burr, nee Hoskins, lived there. (Sources: *Marlborough Express*, 8 October 1873, p. 2, & 19 November 1904, p. 2; Vera L. McLennan-Boman *Glimpses into early Manawatu: The saga of Amos and Lydia Burr: the family and the people they knew* (Palmerston North, 1985), pp. 64 & 102

<sup>130</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 26 August 1899, p. 2

<sup>131</sup> A.N. (Tony) Hunt, *Foxton 1888-1988: The First 100 Years* (Foxton, 1988), pp. 55, 109

<sup>132</sup> Mark Derby, 'Last Issue of the *Manawatu Herald*,' in 'Newspapers - Competition and challenges, 1940-2000', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, updated 19-Sep-14: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/zoomify/43195/last-issue-of-the-manawatu-herald-1997>

The first edition of the *Manawatu Herald* was published on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1878 in an office further along Main Street, at a site described then as being “nearly opposite the Telegraph Office”.<sup>133</sup> In 1997, the original office was described as having been alongside the Anglican Church.<sup>134</sup>

While it has not been possible to identify who designed and erected this building, or to confirm which owner had it built, it is known that Russell Bros. began ‘transacting all business’ from it on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 1879. At that time the property was held under Certificate of Title WN16/248, which also included the adjoining property at 8<sup>th</sup> Main Street, and its owners were recorded as Ernest Stephen Thynne, a Foxton land agent, and James Linton, a Palmerston North land agent. The next Certificate of Title was WN20/92, which was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1880. This indicates that the ‘new’ owners of the property at that time were the brothers, George Warren Russell and John Ruffell Russell, who were the founders of the *Manawatu Herald*. The time lapse might therefore mean that the previous owners of the site (Thynne and Linton) were in fact involved with its construction, but this detail is unlikely now to ever be clarified.

A little information is traceable on the original plant that the Russell brothers used. They advertised in the *Manawatu Herald* on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1878 (p. 4) that they had “imported a first-class Newspaper and Jobbing Plant,” and that they had “secured the most modern Machinery...” In addition to newspapers, they were also prepared to print pamphlets, catalogues, society rules, ball programmes, show cards, business cards, visiting cards, handbills, printed bags and wrapping papers, billheads, law forms, receipt books and fancy show cards, using either plain or ornamental printing styles.

<sup>133</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 1 October 1878, p. 4

<sup>134</sup> Derby: ‘Last Issue of the *Manawatu Herald*’

George Russell did not stay with the newspaper for long, the brothers’ partnership being dissolved perhaps in 1880 (according to John Russell’s obituary)<sup>135</sup>, but certainly after the death of John Dungan, owner of Palmerston North’s *Manawatu Daily Times*, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1882.



Figure 29 This photo is said to show the *Manawatu Herald* office in 1904 - with the proprietor, E. Thynne, standing by the doorway. However, the photo is certain to be older than that, in fact possibly showing the building as it originally was. One pointer to this is the fact that Ernest Thynne was ill by July 1903 and he never recovered. He died in February 1904. Thynne had purchased the newspaper in late 1888 and he then took over the building’s lease from 1 January 1889. He purchased the building in early 1892, however, he had also previously owned the property (with James Linton) until 1880 and may in fact have even had this building erected in 1879 (or earlier). (Source: Kete Horowhenua: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/images/17567-manawatu-herald-office-foxton-in-1904> )

George is known to have purchased the *Manawatu Daily Times* from Dungan’s estate.<sup>136</sup> The Certificate of Title records the Foxton property

<sup>135</sup> *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 12 March 1917, p. 7

<sup>136</sup> ‘John B. Dungan’, Terrace End Cemetery records:

<http://www.pncc.govt.nz/services/onlineservices/cemetery-and-cremation-detail/?id=24053>

being transferred to John Russell alone in August 1882. George then owned and edited the *Manawatu Daily Times* for two years, before moving on to the Waikato for a few years.<sup>137</sup> Norman Henry Nash, later owner of the *Manawatu Standard*, was then a young employee of the *Manawatu Herald*, and he shifted to Palmerston North at the same time as George Russell and worked with him on the *Manawatu Daily Times*.<sup>138</sup>

Born in London in 1854, George Russell emigrated to Launceston, Tasmania, with his parents. The family moved to Wellington in 1865 and there he became an apprentice printer with the *Evening Post*, before moving on to other roles in journalism. This was in due course followed by a political career that included 17 years in the House of Representatives (1893-1919), including time as a Cabinet Minister during WWI. He died in Wellington in June 1937.<sup>139</sup>

Younger brother John Russell, who was born in Launceston in 1856, followed George into the printing trade with the *Evening Post*, rising after nine years to the position of publisher of that newspaper. At that point the brothers decided to establish the *Manawatu Herald*. In December 1888, John Russell “retired from the position of editor” of the *Manawatu Herald* and Ernest Stephen Thynne “assumed control” of the newspaper.<sup>140</sup> The lease arrangement began on 1 January 1889.<sup>141</sup> However, Thynne was also the newly elected first mayor of Foxton. He soon realised that he could not “run a town and a paper at the same time,” and so he resigned the mayoralty later in January 1889.<sup>142</sup> Despite this, and the fact that Thynne’s editorial of 26<sup>th</sup> August 1899 stated that he

purchased the newspaper in 1889,<sup>143</sup> it was not until May 1892 that the property itself was transferred into Thynne’s name; in fact ‘back’ into Thynne’s name as he had previously part-owned it until 1880.<sup>144</sup>

Ernest Thynne’s period of ownership included competing with another Foxton newspaper, the *Foxton Telegraph*, for four years starting in 1896.<sup>145</sup> By July 1903, Thynne was ill and taking a month off work. Then in September 1903, he was described as the “late proprietor of the *Manawatu Herald*.”<sup>146</sup> Thynne died on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1904, after a very active business and community career in the District.<sup>147</sup> He was succeeded by Frank Thynne (one of his four sons), and attempts were then made to sell the newspaper. At first, Walter Beyer, previously foreman of the *Hawkes Bay Herald*, was to become the new proprietor. However, within days in November 1904, these plans had fallen through and Beyer returned to Napier.<sup>148</sup>

The Certificate of Title records that the property was transmitted to Ellen Thynne, Ernest’s widow, in June 1905. On the same date a five-year lease to Frank Herbert Morgan was also recorded on the Certificate of Title, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1905. Morgan, who clearly did not remain long in Foxton was later sub-editor of the *NZ Times*.<sup>149</sup>

<sup>137</sup> *NZ Herald*, 29 June 1937, p. 12

<sup>138</sup> *Evening Post*, 28 June 1937, p. 11

<sup>139</sup> *Press*, 29 June 1937, p. 10; *NZ Herald*, 29 June 1937, p. 12

<sup>140</sup> *Feilding Star*, 18 December 1888, p. 2

<sup>141</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 5 February 1889, p. 2

<sup>142</sup> *Feilding Star*, 9 February 1889, p. 2

<sup>143</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 26 August 1899, p. 2. This marked the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the newspaper’s publication

<sup>144</sup> Certificate of Title: WN20/92; *Manawatu Herald*, 26 August 1899, p. 2; ‘Ernest Stephen Thynne’ in *Kete Horowhenua*: <http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/en/site/topics/219-ernest-stephen-thynne>

<sup>145</sup> Papers Past: <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&cl=CL1.MH&essay=1&e=-----10--1----0--> )

<sup>146</sup> *Manawatu Times*, 8 July 1903, p. 2; *Feilding Star*, 26 September 1903, p. 2

<sup>147</sup> *Manawatu Times*, 22 February 1904, p. 5

<sup>148</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 1 November 1904, p. 4 & 7 November 1904, p. 8; *Manawatu Times*, 2 November 1904, p. 2

<sup>149</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 1 March 1905, p. 5; *Dominion*, 3 April 1917, p. 8



Figure 30 The *Manawatu Herald* office in 1922, prior to the rebuilding of the Foxton Racing Club office building on the site to the left of this photo. The original Racing Club office building burnt down in March 1920. The 'new' façade and foyer on this building are likely to date from the early 1890s when Thynne purchased the building. (Source: Hocken Library, 1295\_01\_001A, <http://hockensnapshop.ac.nz/nodes/view/11479> )

Ellen Thynne then sold the *Manawatu Herald* to experienced Wairarapa editor and newspaper proprietor, John Knowles Hornblow, and he took it over on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 1906. In making this announcement, the Wellington publication *Free Lance* added that Hornblow had been at the *Free Lance*'s office "a few days ago, looking for a barrel full of new type and a few machines and things to comfort the hearts of the flax-growers."<sup>150</sup> The Certificate of Title, meanwhile, records that the property itself was not transferred into Hornblow's name until 1914.

The *Dominion* of 7<sup>th</sup> April 1916 (p.8) recorded the registration of a private company named the Manawatu Herald Co. Ltd., on March 29<sup>th</sup> of that year; its office being Main Street, Foxton. Its capital of £2,500 was divided

<sup>150</sup> *Wairarapa Daily Times*, 9 August 1906, p. 5; *Free Lance*, 18 August 1906, p. 3

into 2,500 shares of £1 each, and the subscribers to it were J.K. Hornblow (1,875 shares) and F.D. Whibley (625 shares). The objects of the exercise were: "To acquire as a going concern the business of newspaper proprietor, etc., carried on by J.K. Hornblow, at Foxton."

At about 4:00am on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 1920, this building was almost lost when the Foxton Racing Club's building next door was mysteriously destroyed by fire. At that time, the town's fire brigade was newly-formed and their only fire-fighting appliance was a small hand-drawn, single-cylinder, chemical engine. This helped save the *Manawatu Herald* building, and in consequence Mr and Mrs Hornblow shouted the firemen in thanks for what they had achieved.<sup>151</sup> Two days later, at 11:30pm., on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1920, another of Foxton's major fires broke out at the other end of Main Street (also mysteriously) but this time the little fire-fighting appliance was no match for it.<sup>152</sup>

John Hornblow was another owner of the *Manawatu Herald* who was very active within his community. He remained running the newspaper until his death in April 1937, at which time his son Robert took over.<sup>153</sup> In this instance, the Certificate of Title records that in October 1937, the property was transmitted into the names of John Sewell Hornblow, a dental surgeon of Palmerston North and Robert Overy (Bob) Hornblow, a newspaper reporter of Foxton.

The earliest records in the Building Permit file for this building date to 25<sup>th</sup> May 1938, although this relates to the lease of the property that was being transferred on the Foxton Borough Council's records to Robert Overy

<sup>151</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 26 March 1920, p. 3; *Manawatu Standard*, 29 March 1920, p. 5; Hunt, p. 206

<sup>152</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 29 March 1920, p. 5

<sup>153</sup> *Evening Post*, 21 April 1937, p. 9; 'Manawatu Herald' history, in Papers Past: <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&cl=CL1.MH&essay=1&e=-----10--1---0--> )

Hornblow (following his father's death), rather than anything relating to alterations to the building itself.

While Bob Hornblow was serving overseas during WWII, his wife Rita ran the newspaper, assisted by Harry Robson, albeit that it was out of production between February 1943 and September 1944. The newspaper was subsequently renamed the *Foxton Herald* between 1955<sup>154</sup> and 1961, including at the time it was sold to G.M. (Bill) Blundell.

The Building Permit records indicate that in 1958, an extension was added to the building. This filled in the space between the existing main building, and a smaller building further back on the property. A smoko room and toilet were also installed in this extension. The new addition had block and concrete walls, with an iron roof. Its exterior was plastered.

Blundell on-sold the *Manawatu Herald* in 1963; the new owner/s being a sequence of businessmen from outside Foxton. In 1968, the newspaper was sold to Frank Goldingham and around this time the *Manawatu Herald* ceased to be published from this building.<sup>155</sup>

Frank Goldingham sold the *Manawatu Herald* to the community newspaper section of the Manawatu Standard Ltd. in 1981. Then in 1997, the Manawatu Standard Ltd. decided to close the *Manawatu Herald* and extend another of its newspapers, the *Horowhenua Mail*, into the *Herald's* former circulation area. Accordingly the *Manawatu Herald* was published for the last time on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1997.<sup>156</sup>

<sup>154</sup> Note that Rita Hornblow (then of Foxton) died on 18 November 1955, which perhaps influenced the decision for her husband to sell the newspaper. She is buried at Kelvin Grove Cemetery, Palmerston North.

<sup>155</sup> Interview with John Read, 9 June 2016

<sup>156</sup> Derby: 'Last Issue of the *Manawatu Herald*'; Hunt, p. 109

### ***Manawatu Print (1967) Ltd.***

The printing side of the business had, however, remained in Bill Blundell's ownership when he sold the *Manawatu Herald*. In due course he decided that he did not wish to keep the printery going and he was considering simply closing it down. However, as the staff realised that they would be out of work in such a situation, two of them decided to purchase the printery themselves and they formed Manawatu Print (1967) Ltd.<sup>157</sup> One was Harry Robson, the foreman of the printery who had assisted with running it during WWII. The other was John Read, who had started there as an apprentice printer after leaving school in 1959/60. There had been between six and eight staff working there at that time. For the first year or two after forming the company, they continued printing the *Manawatu Herald* in the building. However, after that went, they continued with commercial printing of various sorts.<sup>158</sup>

The actual property, however, never belonged to Blundell. It was next transmitted in June 1971 to John Sewell Hornblow as successor of the two Hornblow co-owners; Robert Hornblow having died on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1971.<sup>159</sup> Then in a transaction backdated to January 1971, the property was transferred to John Sewell Hornblow and Crawford Kent Byne (1930-2012), a Foxton painter whose wife's maiden-name was Hornblow.<sup>160</sup> In 1977 they sold the property to John Reginald Read, described at the time as a printer of Foxton. Read of course was also the occupier of the building at that time, having been one of the two founders of Manawatu Print (1967) Ltd.<sup>161</sup>

<sup>157</sup> 'Manawatu Print 1967 Limited' (20124), incorporated 26 July 1967: Companies Office website: <https://www.business.govt.nz/companies>

<sup>158</sup> Interview with John Read, 9 June 2016

<sup>159</sup> Kelvin Grove Cemetery records, [www.pncc.govt.nz](http://www.pncc.govt.nz)

<sup>160</sup> 'Crawford Kent Byne': <https://www.geni.com/people/Crawford-Byne/600000002984568163>

<sup>161</sup> Certificate of Title: WN20/92; Hunt, p. 109



Figure 31 The building with its tired and somewhat underwhelming stucco façade, before work began in 2015. Former owner, John Read, began working there in 1959/60 and has no recollection of the building having this façade added, and it is believed to date to the 1940s. (Photo: Jim & Sarah Harper)



Figure 32 The old *Manawatu Herald* sign rediscovered beneath the stucco in 2015 – some of which is still visible at the bottom of this photo. This sign differs significantly from the two sign boards shown in the old photos of the building. (Photo: Jim & Sarah Harper)

In 1981, “the existing extremely substandard” central portion of the building was replaced by a new structure with a concrete floor and foundations, concrete block walls, and a corrugated iron roof. Replacement double side doors were also installed into it on the north side of the building, to allow “paper, cardboard, machinery etc.” to be brought in and out of the building, as well as providing “the only other means of Fire Egress apart from the front door.” Reinstalling these doors in the new wall had required special dispensation from the Council. The right-of-way these doors opened onto was shared with O’Leary Plumbing Ltd., and once a new service lane at the back of the building was available, these side doors were to be blocked up.<sup>162</sup>

John Read set about disposing of its plant when the time came for Manawatu Print to cease operating. The printery’s equipment was all of an ‘older’ type, as opposed to the modern types of printing equipment now in use. Some of these items went to collectors and others likely to make use of them. Other more modern equipment that no-one was interested in went off as scrap. However, two very old printers were amongst the wide array of early printing items retained in the building, and these were sold to the Harpers along with the building. Both are ‘hand-fed printing machines’; one being a US-manufactured 1890 Chandler & Price, and the other a 1905 Phoenix<sup>163</sup>.

### **Re-Purposing the Building**

Jim and Sarah Harper, who own the neighbouring former Foxton Racing Club building, purchased the building in mid-2015. A few months later they removed the building’s ‘modernised’ stucco façade as part of their upgrade and they have now rebuilt the façade to appear from Main Street as it did

<sup>162</sup> Letter dated 28 September 1981, F.W. McBrydie, Registered Master Builder, to Foxton Borough Council (HDC Building Permit files for this building)

<sup>163</sup> Interview with John Read, 9 June 2016

from the 1890s. This also enables it to blend in with other historic buildings in the vicinity.<sup>164</sup>



Figure 33 The completed exterior, alongside the former Foxton Racing Club building, in 2016. Both buildings belong to the Harpers (Photo: Jim & Sarah Harper)

The building is now therefore onto its fourth known façade. The original one was relatively undecorated and featured a door on the left front and two large windows across the remainder of the front wall. This is assumed to have been in place between 1879 and about 1892. Ernest Thynne was pictured outside it, which suggests that the photo was taken after late 1888 when he purchased the newspaper.

The second façade was much grander and more pretentious given the building's relatively small street frontage. This was in fact part of a new four-metre extension onto the front of the building that included a new

<sup>164</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 30 April 1997, p. 1, in Derby: 'Last Issue of the *Manawatu Herald*'

foyer. This façade has been dated at around 1891 and it is likely that its construction coincided with Ernest Thynne's purchase of the land and building in 1892 (as opposed to the newspaper itself, which he already owned).

The bland stucco façade that the building bore until 2015 is thought to date from the 1940s. This façade also shifted the doors and windows to suggest a more 'modern' origin. However, beneath this façade remained not only the 'shadow' of the features from the 1890s façade, but also actual signage stating the name of the newspaper; albeit that the print style differs from that shown in the 1922 photo of this building. This allowed the Harpers to not only replicate the second façade as 'Façade Mk IV', but also allowed them to salvage and preserve the nameboard as an artefact.



Figure 35 Inside the foyer, just inside the front door - 2016. This is the part of the building that was added in about the 1890s. The door shown here leads through to the office and then to the printery. (Photo: Jim & Sarah Harper)



Figure 34 A mix of old and introduced – following restoration in 2016. Note the repurposed name from the façade now decorating the wall. (Photo: Jim & Sarah Harper)

The extensive 2015 Building Permit documents supplied to Horowhenua District Council by the Harpers, as part of the restoration and adaption work on the building, were prepared by T&M Designs Ltd. of Levin.

Jim and Sarah Harper aim to preserve the building as an 1880s-era workshop for printing items that are linked to the building's history and to

also accommodate their collection of mechanical musical instruments. The Harpers also intend to carry out various craft works in the building.<sup>165</sup>



Figure 36 Some of the old printing equipment still housed in the building - 2016. Other related pulleys etc. are overhead in the rafters. (Photo: Jim & Sarah Harper)

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### *Description*

The diminutive single storey timber framed and clad former printery is built to the street boundary. It is built on the western side of Main Street and has an elongated rectangular plan form with four distinct periods of construction. The building closest to the street has rusticated weatherboards while the next building, the first to be constructed, has shiplap weatherboards. The rear buildings are of reinforced concrete construction. All buildings have corrugated steel roofing with the front three

buildings being gabled. The eastern most concrete building has a hipped roof to the rear while the western most addition has a lean-to roof. The street front has a central four panelled entry door with asymmetrically located double hung sash windows either side. The door and windows have triangular pediments at the head of the openings. Above the windows are a bracketed cornice and a parapetted balustrade with a central pediment. At the corners of the parapet are balled finials.

The interior of the street front building is one large and one small space with painted and clear coated match lining. The floor is timber strip. The next timber framed building is one space with the same ceiling, wall and floor linings. The ceiling is coved just above the window heads. There is a double door lead to the rear.

### **Style**

The street front building is designed in the Edwardian Commercial Italianate Palazzo style, which was influenced by the picturesque movement and was popular from the early 1850's in New Zealand for commercial and domestic buildings. The Italianate style was first made popular particularly for large English residential buildings from the early 1800's with Cronkhill, the first building in the style, designed by architect, John Nash.

This Italianate commercial style was a part of the classical revival of the nineteenth century, which was championed by Sir Charles Barry from the 1840's in his design of clubs and smaller office buildings. His preferred style was the sixteenth century Italian Palazzo and he was also influential in using this style for large country houses for the wealthy. Commercial buildings, particularly banks, preferred the use of classical architecture and the design of C R Cockerell's 'Sun Fire and Life Assurance' building of 1839-42 in Threadneedle Street confirmed the Italianate Palazzo style.

<sup>165</sup> Email from Jim Harper to VAB, dated 8 June 2016

The design of larger structures using classical language was easily solved using the Palazzo style and quickly saw warehouses and multi-storey offices and other buildings adopt the Italianate Palazzo style. Architects such as Edward Walters, J E Gregan, Edward l’Anson, and John Gibson, popularised the style in England while Scottish architects also took up the style with gusto.

Characteristics of the style include Classical detailing, symmetry, pedimented openings, bracketed cornice and balustraded parapet.

**Setting**

The building is on the western side of Main Street in the northern end of Foxton’s commercial area. The generously wide street extends north from Seaview Gardens in the south to Ihakara Gardens in the north. Both gardens are on small hills and visually contain the street. Shops in the commercial area are either single or two storeyed and date mainly from the Edwardian period. There are several discrete blocks of shops as well as several residential buildings and two churches. Visually dominating the street is the Windmill on the west of Main Street towards the southern end. Opposite the windmill is the local swimming baths, the Foxton Pools.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This building has high **regional** significance for demonstrating high **historical** and **setting/group** values and moderate **architectural** values.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework the former Manawatu Herald building is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following theme and subtheme:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commerce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office</li> </ul>

**Values**

The former newspaper office and printery has high **historic** values as one of the oldest buildings in Foxton, now nearly 140 years old. It also has high **historic** values in its association with Foxton’s newspaper, the *Manawatu Herald*, being its first newspaper, which was printed in the building between 1879 to 1968-69. The recent recreation of its second façade celebrates this history, as does the collection of printing equipment in the building.

It has high **historic** values in its association with early owner was George Russell a Minister of Parliament and one-time Cabinet Minister, while another early owner, Ernest Thynne, was a one-time Mayor of Foxton.

The building has moderate **architectural** values as a good, representative example of the Edwardian Commercial Italianate Palazzo style.

The building has high **setting/group** values as its scale, form, age, style, location, visibility and detailing contribute to it being a primary building in the Foxton township historic area.

**Measure**

The exterior of the building has been replaced recently; however, the remainder of the building appears to have moderate levels of **authenticity**, while also having a high level of **integrity**. The design style is relatively common, but uncommon locally.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING**

It is recommended that this building be listed as a Group 2 building in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	H
Social		Archaeological	*
Architectural	M	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific			
<b>Significance</b>	National	<b>Regional</b>	Local
<b>Recommended Group</b>		<b>2</b>	

\* An archaeological investigation has not been undertaken as part of the assessment of this property; it is possible that it may have archaeological values given that the site/part of the building is associated with pre-1900 human activity.

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*Manawatu Herald, Manawatu Standard, Manawatu Times, Marlborough Express, NZ Herald, Press, Wairarapa Daily Times*); Companies Office; Geni.com; Hocken Library; Kete Horowhenua, Palmerston North City Council cemetery records (as per footnotes)

Thanks also to the current owners, Jim and Sarah Harper, and the previous owner, John Read, who assisted with this study in a range of ways.

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H65 - Foxton Racing Club Building



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owners:</b>	James Edward Harper & Sarah Jane Harper
<b>Address:</b>	8 Main Street, Foxton
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Part Sec 100 Town of Foxton
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN20/91
<b>Construction date:</b>	1923
<b>Architect:</b>	L.G. West & Son (Probably E.V. West)
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Foxton Racing Club Inc.
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The former Foxton Racing Club office block was designed in brick by the Palmerston North architectural firm, L.G. West & Son. As L.G. West had died in 1919, the actual architect for this building was almost certainly his son, Ernst Vilhelm West, who had joined the practice in 1913. Tenders were called to build this building on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1923.<sup>166</sup> A key feature remaining within this building is its strongroom and in particular its strongroom door. This is a 'George Price' door, dating to the 1860s, that will have been obtained second-hand as the safe in the previous building was a free-standing one. As it carries a plaque from Melbourne, it might have been installed when the Commercial Bank of Australia leased the building.

Note that the Foxton Racing Club had a series of changes of name in the first decades following its establishment in 1862. It began as the Manawatu Racing Club and by 1880 it was the Foxton Jockey Club. It had then become the Foxton Racing Club by 1889.

#### *The Previous Building*

The present building's origins began with the fire that destroyed its predecessor on the same site in the early hours of 26<sup>th</sup> March 1920. The *Manawatu Standard* recorded that:

*"Shortly after four o'clock this morning the Foxton Racing Club's office (with its contents) in Main Street was totally destroyed by fire. The conflagration spread to the Herald newspaper office adjoining, upon which the newly-formed brigade, assisted by a chemical engine, concentrated. Fortunately there was no wind and the Herald's premises were saved. Had there been a wind blowing the fire*

<sup>166</sup> Pam Phillips Papers, Series 1, 2, Box 1: *Palmerston North Architects 1900-1950* Research File 'Tenders obtained from the *Manawatu Evening Standard* (Ian Matheson City Archives, Palmerston North City Library), p. 13

*equipment could not have prevented the destruction of the Herald and adjoining premises. The cause of the outbreak is a mystery. The insurance and damage are not yet ascertainable.*<sup>167</sup>

Only two days later, at 11:30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1920, another mysterious fire broke out. This one started at the back of Perreau's bakery, a business further along Main Street, and it resulted in two large blocks of shops, containing seven shops between them, being destroyed. It was described at the time as one of the most disastrous fires to strike the town and the fire-fighting equipment available in the town had been "totally inadequate to cope with the conflagration."<sup>168</sup> These fires were two of a number of suspicious fires that struck the town around that time.

The Coroner's Inquest into the fire in the Foxton Racing Club (the Club) office tended to direct its attention toward the Club's secretary, Endell Wanklyn, a Foxton Land & Commission Agent, who was the only person with a key to the office safe, which was found ajar after the fire. He had been at the office late in the evening before the fire occurred. The Club was having concerns with his work and the fire destroyed information that he was supposed to be presenting to the Club's committee the next day.

Also missing was about £120 that should have been in the bank. Wanklyn could not account for that either. There was not supposed to be more than £2 held in the safe. The fire had begun inside the building and its doors were locked when it was first noticed. Wanklyn lost his job. Meanwhile the inquest found that there was insufficient evidence to prove how the fire had started. The building, which was the property of the Foxton Racing Club, had been insured for £75.<sup>169</sup>

<sup>167</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 26 March 1920, p. 5

<sup>168</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 29 March 1920, p. 5

<sup>169</sup> Coroners Inquests (Foxton Racing Club): R23802063, ACGS, 16231, J45 615/COR1920/495 (Archives, NZ, Wellington). My copy supplied by Jim Harper.

### **Some Background**

It is not clear when the Foxton Racing Club first occupied this site. However, it was certainly there from 1908. Certificate of Title WN20/91 was issued to Ernest Stephen Thynne of Foxton and James Linton of Palmerston North in 1881. Thynne took over Linton's share in 1883 and then in 1894 it was transferred to Russell Crampton of Norfolk, England. It was subsequently transferred back to Thynne again in 1897. Thynne died in 1904 and in 1905 the property was then transmitted to his widow, Ellen.

In 1908, the property was transferred jointly to James Nash Symons, a flaxmiller, and George Alexander Gray, hotelkeeper, both of Foxton. The ownership arrangement stated that there was to be no survivorship in terms of owning the property and their 'ownership' of the property was clearly in their capacity as trustees of the Foxton Racing Club. However, Ernest Thynne had also been a long-time senior member of the Foxton Racing Club.<sup>170</sup>

James Nash Symons died on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1912 aged 49 years, having meanwhile moved to Hastings.<sup>171</sup> George Alexander Gray then also died at Hataitai on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1915, some years after leaving Foxton.<sup>172</sup> This must have caused some 'ownership' difficulties when the office burnt down and certainly the Certificate of Title records an Order of Court vesting the land on this section into the name of 'The Foxton Racing Club Incorporated'. This entry was processed on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1923, so the actual event will have taken place shortly prior to that date. This would be formalising the earlier arrangement involving Symons and Gray, whose actions would have been representing the club.

<sup>170</sup> For example, the *Manawatu Herald* of 5 April 1889 (p. 4) and 23 January 1897 (p. 2) both list him as Vice President

<sup>171</sup> 'Symons, James Nash', Death Registration in <https://www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/> Also:

'Symons, James Nash' at Hastings Cemetery: <http://cemeterybase.hdc.govt.nz/>

<sup>172</sup> *Evening Post*, 8 May 1915, p. 2; *Manawatu Standard*, 10 May 1915, p. 5

The Foxton Racing Club became an incorporated society on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1921,<sup>173</sup> however, whether this decision relates in any way with the office block fire (and a need to raise funds to build a new one) is not known.

It is noteworthy that the Certificate of Title also records Charles Henry Symons providing a mortgage to the club that was entered onto the Title on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1923. This mortgage remained operational on the Title in 1938 and 1939, following Symons' death in 1937.<sup>174</sup>

### **Foxton Racing Club**

The information on the upper façade of this building states that the Club was established in 1862; however, there has been some uncertainty as to this very early date. Information on the Club's early years appears to have been lost and the 1920 office fire seems likely to have contributed to that difficulty. However, the Papers Past website assists with resolving some of the mystery:

- The *Wellington Independent* of 9<sup>th</sup> April **1861** (p. 5) records that the Manawatu Races had been held in March, with a large attendance of Europeans and Maori. The event was “most satisfactory.”
- In January 1923, the Club held its Jubilee Meeting and there it ran the “*Foxton Diamond Jubilee Cup 1863-1923*”.<sup>175</sup> This supports the likelihood of an 1862 formation for the Club.
- The Manawatu Races were held on 8<sup>th</sup> April **1864** and the event was very successful.<sup>176</sup>
- In June 1919, Mr J. Kebbell of Levin, wrote to the *Horowhenua Chronicle* on matters relating to the Foxton Racecourse. In the

course of his letter he wrote: “*I speak from experience I have gained as a trustee of the Manawatu (Foxton) Racecourse, which was granted in 1868, being one of the original trustees. **Races have been carried on there for many years previous to that date.** The first lease was given to the Foxton Racing Club on October 22, 1893...*”<sup>177</sup>

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> August **1865**, the Wellington Provincial Council read the Manawatu Racecourse Bill for the third time and it was passed. However, in December 1865, the resulting Manawatu Racecourse Act was disallowed by the General Government.<sup>178</sup>
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> March **1869**, Mr A.F. Halcombe brought in a bill to the Wellington Provincial Council entitled “*An Act to provide for the management of the Manawatu Racecourse.*”<sup>179</sup> The Act, which was assented on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1869 set out the appointing of trustees, and their various duties. The first trustees were Francis Robinson, Thomas Upperdine Cook, Alexander Gray, John Kebbell jnr and John Taylor. The Act's official title was the “*Manawatu Racecourse Act 1869 (W).*”<sup>180</sup>
- The *Manawatu Times* of 10<sup>th</sup> March **1877** (p. 3) announced the nominations for the Manawatu Jockey Club of Foxton. The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 20<sup>th</sup> March 1877 (p. 2) also referred to the Manawatu Jockey Club.
- **1880** – The ‘Manawatu Racing Club’ was formed at Palmerston North.<sup>181</sup> The *Manawatu Times* of 27<sup>th</sup> October 1880 (p. 2) reported on this meeting and the reasons the new club chose its

<sup>173</sup> Societies.govt.nz: Foxton Racing Club Incorporated, No. 215481

<sup>174</sup> *Evening Post*, 7 September 1937, p. 4

<sup>175</sup> *NZ Herald*, 22 January 1923, p. 4

<sup>176</sup> *Wellington Independent*, 12 March 1864, p. 3, 19 March 1864, p. 3

<sup>177</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 26 June 1919, p. 3; See also *Otago Daily Times*, 29 January 1927 (p. 24) re John Kebbell visiting the Foxton racecourse 60 years after he helped found it.

<sup>178</sup> *Wellington Independent*, 5 August 1865, p. 6; *Daily Southern Cross*, 11 December 1865, p. 5

<sup>179</sup> *Wellington Independent*, 25 March 1869, p. 3; *Wanganui Herald*, 10 April 1869, p. 2

<sup>180</sup> NZ Statutes: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/provincial/1869/0003/latest/whole.html>

<sup>181</sup> Brian O'Flaherty, *The Manawatu Racing Club: A Centennial History* (Palmerston North, 1980), p. 4

name were “in deference to the Foxton people,” whose club, the article said, was called the “Foxton Jockey Club.” The Palmerston North people had considered naming their new club the “Manawatu Jockey Club.” However, as Foxton already had a “Jockey Club”, the Palmerston North people chose “Racing Club” to avoid offending the Foxton club.

- The *Manawatu Herald* of 5<sup>th</sup> April **1889** (p. 4) advertised its coming autumn race meeting under the headline “Foxton Racing Club,” however, both ‘Racing Club’ and ‘Jockey Club’ for the club seemed to be used by various newspapers thereafter for quite some years.

Under the headline: “How Club’s Ill Luck turned Splendid Fields for Saturday’s Meeting”, the *Evening Post* of 25<sup>th</sup> May 1938 (p. 15) outlined the difficulties faced by the Foxton Racing Club after World War One (WWI). The Club’s annual two-day race meeting clashed with Trentham’s Wellington Cup and in 1933 the entries had been so light, that the meeting was abandoned. It then moved to a much more successful mid-winter event. The brief history of the club in this *Evening Post* article recorded that:

*“In the ‘good old days’ Foxton meetings were real picnic gatherings. The pine-tree hills were ideal for happy sport in those carefree times. From far and wide the buggies and gigs came. Pakeha and Maori mingled in two glorious days of racing. It did not matter that the best horses were at Trentham. There were always enough to supply satisfactory fields.*

*“Then Foxton lost its prestige in more ways than one. The flax industry, except for a brief period of resuscitation during the war years, began to wane, as steel took the place more and more of fibre, and the day of the sailing ship was passing. The former picnic glamour departed. The pine trees, or many of them, found their ways to the mills. The Foxton course was not the course it had been, and*

*the motorcar finally drained off a considerable portion of the patronage the club had always looked upon as its legitimate portion.*

*“The post-war boom enabled all clubs to go along successfully for a time, but Foxton was soon on the drift again. As the first breezes of the coming depression made themselves manifest Foxton found itself in dire straits. To maintain its unequal struggle against Trentham the club selected dates prior to the Anniversary Day holiday, but the result was more and more disheartening. When the Anniversary date was dropped, Ashhurst seized it, and Foxton was left well and truly adrift on an unfriendly sea. So 1933 duly came, when the club could not race at all in January...”*

Things evidently looked up after the forced change to a winter race meeting from 1933<sup>182</sup>, however, on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1938, the main grandstand at Foxton Racecourse was destroyed by fire.<sup>183</sup>

#### ***The Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd.***

The Harpers understand that the Foxton Racing Club was struggling somewhat in its early years in this building and that this is what led to the Commercial Bank of Australia (CBA) leasing part of the building. This relieved some of the Club’s financial pressure. The arrangement with the bank is not mentioned on the property’s Title as either a lease or as a mortgage.

The Commercial Bank of Australia (CBA) had commenced in New Zealand on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1912, and had then gradually spread throughout the country. The *Evening Post* of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1928 (p. 14) published a report on the Bank for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 1928 and this included the

<sup>182</sup> *Evening Post*, 25 May 1938, p. 15

<sup>183</sup> *Evening Post*, 25 October 1938, p. 7

information that “over thirty new branches” had been opened throughout the year, and that one of these was in Foxton.<sup>184</sup>

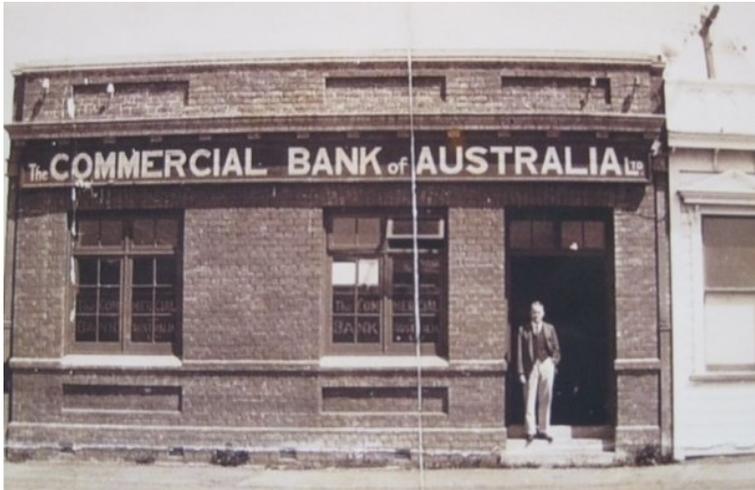


Figure 38 The Foxton Racing Club building as the Commercial Bank of Australia. This photo was obtained by the Harpers from the Westpac Bank's archives and it is dated 1928. That coincides with the year the bank opened in the front part of the building. Note that the CBA had installed its name board over the original name of the building, and that it is the original version that is now on display on the building's façade after being covered over for about 85 years.

The *Horowhenua Chronicle* of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (p. 2) records that the Foxton branch of the Commercial Bank of Australia opened on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1928. It remained in this building until August 1960, when the bank relocated to 62 Main Street, where it remained for 52 years. In October 1982, the Commercial Bank of Australia and the Bank of New South Wales combined to form Westpac.<sup>185</sup> In 2012, after the 62 Main Street building

<sup>184</sup> *Manawatu Times*, 15 March 1920, p. 4; *Evening Post*, 2 August 1928, p. 14

<sup>185</sup> 'Commercial Bank of Australia':

<http://thecommunityarchive.org.nz/node/68024/description> . Also:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial\\_Bank\\_of\\_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial_Bank_of_Australia)

was declared earthquake-prone, the bank relocated to a pair of converted shipping containers<sup>186</sup>, before Foxton's Westpac branch closed altogether on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.<sup>187</sup>



Figure 37 The Foxton Racing Club office block in about 1995, with the replica of the 'Palmerston' loco in the foreground. No horse portrait in those days, but the State Insurance logo is visible beside the door. (Source: Foxton Historical Society:  
<http://horowhenua.kete.net.nz/site/images/show/8994-railway-engine-palmerston> [cropped])

### **Foxton Racing Club's office again**

The Foxton Racing Club continued operating from the back of the building while the CBA occupied the front office space. Then from 1960 they again had the building to themselves. However, they did not remove the CBA's name board and reveal their own building name (“EST. F.R.C. 1862”) still hidden beneath it. Other signage on the building over the years indicates other occupants, and certainly more recent photographs of the façade (see below) indicate that it was occupied by Paul Pearce, a chartered accountant, and Charles Pearce, a taxation agent. Charles Pearce was also the Foxton Racing Club's secretary.<sup>188</sup> The signage further indicates that the building had also been the town's 'State Insurance' office.

<sup>186</sup> Modulate: <http://modulatecontainers.com.au/retail/westpac-solves-branch-closure-problem-with-new-portable-branches/>

<sup>187</sup> Wayne Duncan: Foxton container bank:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/51227209@N03/13074834964>

<sup>188</sup> *Dominion-Post*, 21 November 2011: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/6002098/Foxton-blaze-prompt-fears-of-arsonist>

The Harpers' advise that Charlie Pearce had used the front section of the building for his Club secretarial work and for his accounting/auditing practice and JP office. Meanwhile the back section of the building contained long tables used for board meetings. There was apparently also a TAB located in the building at some point and this area contained high desks presumably for filling in betting slips.<sup>189</sup>

In early September 1990, thieves took advantage of the people of Foxton being pre-occupied by Telethon events several doors away, to jemmy open the back door of the building and break into its strongroom by smashing their way through its brick wall. \$1,300 in cash belonging to the club was then stolen. The thieves also helped themselves to alcohol held at the premises while they were there.<sup>190</sup>

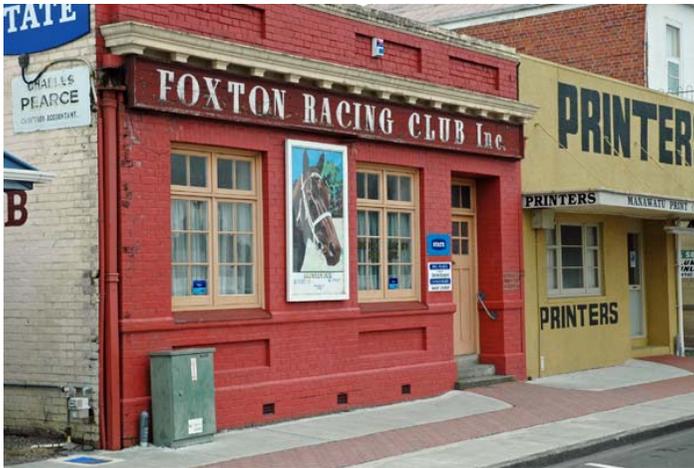


Figure 39 The old name board, installed by the Commercial Bank of Australia, is still in place in this relatively recent (pre-2012) photo. (Source: <http://foxtonmurals.library.org.nz/21.html> )

The reasons the office block was sold were not specifically researched here, however, the building had been placed on the market in late October 2011; just prior to the series of destructive arson attacks on the buildings at the Foxton Racecourse. By the time these occurred, the present owners already had the building under offer. The Club's 2011 Annual Report to the Societies Office does not mention a planned sale as at the date of the Club's AGM, which was on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The Societies Office was duly notified that the building had been sold as at 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012, with the new registered office for the Club taking over that role from 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012.<sup>191</sup>

The events that occurred in November and December of 2011 were a series of very destructive arson attacks at the nearby Foxton Racecourse. These included a fire in the grandstand, three fires in the stable blocks, and also the caretaker's wood shed. Some \$500,000 worth of damage was done and a lot of gear owned by trainers was also lost. Furthermore, repairing the damaged grandstand was also going to result in the need to provide it with earthquake strengthening. At the same time, a number of race meetings were also unable to be held at the Foxton course. Soon afterwards, the racecourse's caretaker was arrested and in due course he was jailed for the various offences, leaving the Foxton Racing Club to cope with the aftermath of the disaster.<sup>192</sup>

In terms of the office block itself, the only Building Permit record prior to the work recently done for the Harpers was the addition of a toilet block in 1966.

<sup>189</sup> Email dated 13 July 2016, Jim Harper to Val Burr

<sup>190</sup> *Manawatu Herald*, 5 September 1990, p. 3 (my copy from Jim Harper)

<sup>191</sup> Societies.govt.nz: Foxton Racing Club Incorporated, No. 215481 (including Annual Reports and the Change of Address document)

<sup>192</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 19 December 2011, p. 1, 7 December 2012, p. 3, 12 April 2013.

### Re-purposing of the Building

The new owners of the old Foxton Racing Club office building, Jim and Sarah Harper, soon set about converting the building into a residence, in addition to part serving as office space for their consultancy business.<sup>193</sup>

The Harpers describe the extent of their work as “a rebuild to 100% of code retaining key architectural features.”<sup>194</sup> Opus Architecture redesigned the old part of the building and also added an extensive new two-storied residential portion behind it. The building contractors were Caldow Builders.



Figure 40 This is the strongroom door that is still in place in the building; with the strongroom also still behind it. The Harpers understand that it dates from the mid-to-late 1860s and thus it long pre-dates this building. It was manufactured by George Price's Safe Company, at its Cleveland Safe & Lock Works, Wolverhampton, England. The Harpers have restored the door to its original colour scheme, and they have also re-gilded the cast brass safe mechanism on the front of the door. The Harpers have researched the features of the door's design, and also the manufacturer. They understand that strongrooms like this were designed to protect documents, including from fire.<sup>1</sup> It seems likely that the Commercial Bank of Australia will have installed the door when they took over the building in 1928 (the bank and the racing club seem unlikely to have shared it), and assisting further with this theory is the brass plaque attached to the top of the door. This reads: “J. Cole, 21 Little Collins St. East, Melbourne.” The CBA's main branch was established in 1866 at what was then 30 Collins Street, Melbourne, and that remained the bank's main branch throughout the bank's lifespan.<sup>1</sup> (Photo: Jim & Sarah Harper)

<sup>193</sup> *Dominion-Post*, 30 March 2013, p. C11

<sup>194</sup> Email dated 13 July 2016, Jim Harper to Val Burr

The work, which was undertaken in 2013, included a new layout for the office and its reception area, the former including the original strongroom, along with the new living area. Work involved in the conversion had included salvaging a great deal of the original timber and fittings for re-use in the new building. It also included removing the inner brick wall of the double cavity façade, in order to install new in situ reinforcing to support the original façade. This dealt with the wall's ‘earthquake-prone’ issues.<sup>195</sup>

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

#### Description

The building is in two halves being; a single storey portion with the original façade and a new two storey house to the rear. This description relates to the original, single storey brick portion which has been built to the street boundary.

The elevation comprises a painted brick elevation with a chamfered base, recessed spandrel panels under each window, a sill rail, painted cement rendered bracketed cornice and entablature topped with a panelled parapet. Cast iron rainwater heads and downpipes are tucked into small recesses at either end of the façade. Under the cornice are the raised letters “E.S.T. F.R.C. 1862.”

The street façade has the main glazed and panelled timber entry door to the northern end with a pair of windows equally spaced about the remainder of the elevation. The windows are pairs of six light casements and two paned toplights above each.

The interior of the original, retained portion of the building comprises of one larger space to the north, two smaller offices and a safe. It is understood that the interior was altered when the dwelling was constructed.

<sup>195</sup> Source: Horowhenua District Council's Building Permit file for this building

**Style**

The style of the building is Stripped Classical, which, as can be inferred from the name, is a simplified version of Classical Architecture where most of the classical detailing and ornamentation is removed from the design. The style was most common in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century up to World War One for banks, government buildings, offices and town halls. However, elements of the style can be seen in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century architects’ work such as French architects Etienne-Louis Boullée and Claude Nicholas Ledoux, German architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel and English architect Sir John Soane. It was also a popular style for small-scale shops where accurate Classical details would have been expensive to reproduce but enough of the detailing was applied to give the impression of Classicism.

**Setting**

The building is on the western side of Main Street, in the northern end of Foxton’s commercial area. The generously wide street extends north from Seaview Gardens in the south to Ihakara Gardens in the north. Both gardens are on small hills and visually contain the street. Shops in the commercial area are either single or two storeyed and date mainly from the Edwardian period. There are several discrete blocks of shops as well as several residential buildings and two churches. Visually dominating the street is the Windmill on the west of Main Street, towards the southern end. Opposite the windmill is the local swimming baths, the Foxton Pools.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This building has high **local** significance for demonstrating high **historical, social, setting/group** values and moderate **architectural** and **technology** values.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework Foxton Racing Club building is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following themes and subthemes:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social/cultural</li> <li>• Commerce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubrooms</li> <li>• Bank</li> </ul>

**Values**

The former Racing Club building has high **historic** and **social** values as the club rooms for the local racing club. It was established in 1862, occupying the site from 1908 to 2012 and the building from 1923 until 2012. The need for a club room is indicative of the enthusiasm of the local population for horse racing and its importance to the local economy, particularly up until the mid 1930s. A decline in the fortunes of the club from competition and a downturn in the flax industry saw the front section of the building leased by the Commercial Bank of Australia (CBA) from 1928 to 1960. Other tenants associated with the building include the TAB, State Insurance and local accountant Charles Pearce who was also the Club Secretary for a time.

It also has high **historic** values as it was designed by a regionally significant architectural firm, L.G. West and Son.

The building has moderate **architectural** values as a good, representative example of the Stripped Classical style in vogue at the time. It also has moderate **technology** values in the strongroom and 1860s George Price door left from the CBA tenancy.

The building has high **setting/group** values as its scale, form, age, style, location, visibility and detailing contribute to being a primary building in the Foxton township historic area.

**Measure**

The retained front of the building appears to have high levels of external **authenticity**, while also having a high level of **integrity**. The rear of the building is new.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING**

It is recommended that the original part of the building, excluding the new house, is listed Group 2.

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	H
Social	H	Archaeological	*
Architectural	M	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	M		
<b>Significance</b>	National	Regional	<b>Local</b>
<b>Recommended Group</b>			<b>2</b>

\* An archaeological investigation has not been undertaken as part of the assessment of this property; it is possible that it may have archaeological values given that the site is associated with pre-1900 human activity.

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Thanks also to the current owners, Jim and Sarah Harper, who assisted with this study in a range of ways.

Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H66 - De Molen - Windmill



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	Foxton Windmill Trust Inc.
<b>Address:</b>	24 Harbour Street, Foxton
<b>Land Owner:</b>	Horowhenua District Council
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Part 598 Town of Foxton
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN50A/28
<b>Construction date:</b>	1995-2003
<b>Architect:</b>	Jan A. Hedra, of Barneveld, Netherlands
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Foxton Windmill Trust Inc.
<b>Builder:</b>	Volunteer labour under Cor Slobbe

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

De Molen, which means 'the mill' in Dutch, is owned by a Trust and stands on land owned by the Horowhenua District Council. Its towering presence dominates the Foxton skyline.

The proposal to erect this windmill originated with a Dutch immigrant, Dirk van Til, who had purchased land at Foxton with a view to growing tulip bulbs in partnership with another Dutch immigrant, John Langen. The land had reminded van Til of The Netherlands, and as a result he decided that he wanted to also build a genuine Dutch windmill.

Unfortunately the tulip venture failed, in part due to a virus, also due to an unsuitable climate. Dirk van Til then moved on to live in Australia. However, John Langen stayed in Foxton and remained determined to see the original dream come to fruition. Thereafter the project was contributed to by many Foxton people, members of the Dutch community, and various other sources of funding.

The proposal to build the windmill was first put to Horowhenua District Council in 1990 and the Foxton Windmill Trust Inc. was incorporated on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1992.<sup>196</sup> Test drilling at the proposed site took place in 1995, and then eight ten-metre-long piles were sunk there in 1996. In 1998, the octagonal ring foundation was laid, with eight concrete tilt-panels being placed on the foundations in 2000.

The 'last brick' laying ceremony occurred on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2001, with the Dutch Ambassador, An de Bijll Nachenius and Horowhenua District mayor,

<sup>196</sup>Foxton Windmill Trust Incorporated (Ref: 525173): <http://www.societies.govt.nz/cms> Note that the society has been registered as a charity since 2008 (Ref: CC26652): <https://www.charities.govt.nz/>

Tom Robinson doing the honours. This event marked the end of the construction of the building's foundation and first floor.<sup>197</sup>

Thereafter, work on the project quickened, with grants coming from the Eastern & Central Community Trust and New Zealand Lotteries. During 2001 the orders were placed in The Netherlands for the running gear, and the laminated timber for the tower and the capping was delivered.

In October 2001, John Langen, in his role as the chairman of the Foxton Windmill Trust Inc., was interviewed on the project by the *Evening Post*. He said that it had been a “*long, hard labour of love by the community.*” The Foxton Community Board was enthusiastic and had made land available in Main Street, next to Foxton's Information Centre, but the fundraising had been a grind. They had aimed to raise the money first, and then build, but in the end they had decided to make a start with the money they did have. At that time they still needed almost half of the \$1 million they expected to require for the windmill. Mr Langen, the *Evening Post* stated, was a semi-retired businessman who had migrated to New Zealand in 1952. He said that he became involved with the project because he was Dutch and proud of his country, and also because the windmill is “*a beautiful, graceful structure – a machine that doesn't look like a machine.*”<sup>198</sup>

During 2002 the windmill's various component parts were installed. This included, on May 21<sup>st</sup>, “*hundreds of people ... (complete with picnic food)*” turning up to watch a 100-tonne crane install the 10-metre middle section of the windmill into place. This part, which was constructed entirely of wooden beams, housed the windmill's internal working gear.<sup>199</sup> Then on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2002, around 100 people gathered to watch the 12-tonne cap being set in place on top of the 24-metre-tall structure. At that time, the

decision on what to call the structure had not yet been made, but ‘De Molen’ was one suggestion.<sup>200</sup>

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2003, the sailstocks, millstones and other parts were received from Vaags Molenwerken of Aalten, in The Netherlands. Trialling then began on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2003.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2003 also, the *Dominion Post* published an article on the background of the windmill. This outlined how the project had been completed due to the determination of the people involved not to give up, despite the difficulties faced such as the funding. It described how a “*key lieutenant*” on the project had been another Dutch migrant, Cor Slobbe, a 74-year-old former Wellington building inspector and clerk of works, who provided the expertise and led a band of about 20 volunteers. It added that Gerben Vaags, one of the three Dutch millwrights who had come from Holland to make the final adjustments to the running gear – and whose family specialised in maintaining old mills in Europe - had been stunned by the effort and the high quality of the building's joinery.<sup>201</sup>

Finally, after about twelve years in the making, De Molen was officially opened by the Governor-General, Dame Silvia Cartwright, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2003; with the Dutch Ambassador Mrs An E de Bijl Nachenius, also officiating at the celebration. Most of the town's 2,500 residents came along to see the windmill's wings turn for the first time, along with hundreds of Dutch immigrants from around the country. Various cultural performances were also on display at the event. The windmill had by then cost some \$850,000 to build.<sup>202</sup> Between January and July of that year, some 20,000 people passed through the mill's doors<sup>203</sup>, and in its first year

<sup>197</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 14 February 2001, p. 2

<sup>198</sup> *Evening Post*, 30 October 2001, p. 4

<sup>199</sup> *Dominion*, 22 May 2002, p. 10

<sup>200</sup> *Dominion Post*, 6 December 2002, p. A7

<sup>201</sup> *Dominion Post*, 10 April 2003, p. B5

<sup>202</sup> *Dominion Post*, 11 April 2003, p. C10; *Manawatu Standard*, 14 April 2003, p. 3

<sup>203</sup> *NZ Herald*, 18 July 2003:

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=7&objectid=3513430](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c_id=7&objectid=3513430)

of operations, some 64,000 people visited.<sup>204</sup> In 2005, a new office/smoko room and toilet facilities were added to the building.<sup>205</sup>

In 2007, John Langen received a Dutch knighthood, the Royal Orange-Nassau medal, for his voluntary service in relation to the windmill project. He had been a baker by trade before leaving Holland at the age of 21.<sup>206</sup> He had then initially worked as a labourer for the NZ Railways.<sup>207</sup>



Figure 42 The date, '2000' above the door at De Molen, signifies the completion of the lower part of the mill during that year. (Photo: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016)

Jan 'John' Sefryn Langen died in Levin on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014, and in respect for his efforts leading to the creation of the mill, it stood in silence for the occasion, with its blades standing for the first time in what traditionally is known as the 'mourning position' for Dutch windmills.<sup>208</sup>

<sup>204</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 13 April 2004, p. 1

<sup>205</sup> Horowhenua District Council: Building Permit records.

<sup>206</sup> *Dominion Post*, 10 April 2003, p. B6

<sup>207</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 5 May 2007, p. 5

<sup>208</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 28 March 2014, p. 16

Since the advent of this windmill project, Dutch heritage has become a feature of Foxton, including the establishment of The Dutch Market shop on Johnston Street (SH1), The Dutch Oven bakery and café near De Molen, and also plans are well underway to establish a museum nearby, focusing on Dutch and Maori heritage.



Figure 41 The date '2002' on the upper part of De Molen, marks the year when the 12-tonne cap was set onto the top of De Molen. The mill was completed and officially opened in 2003. (Photo: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016)

The Dutch flavour is further enhanced by the Dutch flag flying over the vicinity from a flag pole and plaque donated in 1993 by the Scandinavian community, which was marking the arrival of their forebears at Foxton in 1871.<sup>209</sup> These two symbols thereby enhance the town's links to its wider northern European heritage.

The mill's running gear, millstones and sailstocks were made and installed by Vaags Molenwerkn, of Aalten, in The Netherlands. The cogs (big wooden teeth) that drive the mill, originally came from a wind-driven sawmill in The Netherlands. De Molen was built to be an exact full-scale replica of a 1623 Dutch corn mill (apart from alterations required to allow it

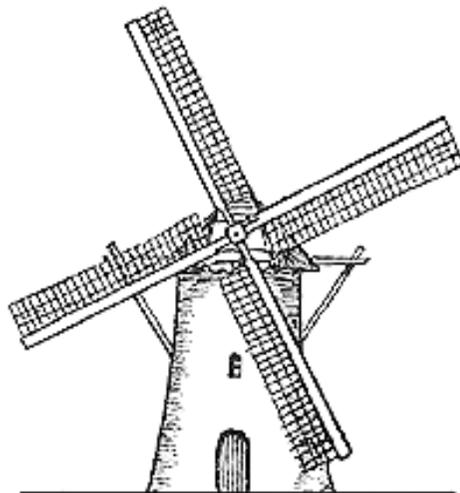
<sup>209</sup> For further information on this Scandinavian plaque and flagpole, see page 167 of *Mosquitoes & Sawdust: A history of Scandinavians in early Palmerston North & surrounding districts* (Palmerston North, 1995), written by myself, Val Burr.

to conform to New Zealand's building codes).<sup>210</sup> The mill structure stands seven stories high, with the vane tips spinning some ten-storeys about the ground.<sup>211</sup> The mill continues to need community support in relation to operational maintenance.<sup>212</sup> In addition, the mill has also become a desirable place of rest and relaxation for numerous feral pigeons. The mill's operators feel somewhat less grateful for their resulting mess.<sup>213</sup>

The mill produces stone-ground organic flour from variously corn, wheat, buckwheat and rye, with organic wholemeal flour being its best-selling product in 2010.<sup>214</sup>

### Technical Details<sup>215</sup>

- Luffing system: Manual on tailbeam.
- Sailstock #1: Streamlined leading edge "Te n Have" brake flaps.
- Sailstock #2: Traditional Dutch with Fauel design leading edge
- Flight: (length of sailstocks) 23.5 metres.
- Windaxle: Cast metal, drilled through to take brakeflaps control rod.
- Upper camwheel: 67 cams, equipped with steel brakeband.
- Upper pinionwheel: (wallover) 31 staves.
- Spurwheel: 99 cams.
- Millstone pinions: 32 staves.
- Millstone set "An": West side: 1-4 metre diameter composite



23 May' (2010), in *Organic Growing*

[ff.co.nz/manawatu-oxton-windmill](http://ff.co.nz/manawatu-oxton-windmill)

23 May' (2010), in *Organic Growing*

mill:  
[:854531](http://854531)

stones.

- Millstone set "Moshe": East side: 1.3 metre diameter composite stones.
- Stones made by Hans Titulaer, Plasmolen, The Netherlands.
- Millstone surrounds, made by Dave Seavers Joinery, Foxton.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The windmill is over 19 metres in height and has an octagonal plan, the walls of which taper. The maximum width of the building is approximately 10 metres. At the second floor is a large timber deck supported by shallow angled timber braces. Above this level the walls both taper and curve to a faceted domed top, at which level the timber framed sails are fixed. Traditionally this level moved according to the direction of the wind. The sails are stabilised by a braced timber structure on the opposite side to the sails.

The base of the windmill is constructed of concrete panels faced with brick. At the deck level, walls are clad with cement sheet weatherboards, with the tapered and curved walls above clad in asphaltic sheet membrane also imitating weatherboards. The dome is clad with membrane. The building has small four paned aluminium windows and aluminium doors.

Attached to the north east corner is a small brick clad, Dutch, stepped gabled storey and a half extension.

Figure 43 An image of a Dutch windmill with its sails set in the 'mourning position.' This display was used when someone close to the windmill or the miller's family died, or even when an unrelated funeral procession passed the mill. The sails turn counter-clockwise, so the upper sail is fixed as having just passed through the highest position, and into the 'going' position. This is intended to indicate that "the culminating point has been passed and life is going downhill." This is the position the windmill's sails were set in to mark John Langden's death in 2014. Dutch windmills have four characteristic positions of their sails: brief rest (such as during operations), rest for a longer period, celebration, and mourning. (Source: 'The Dutch Windmill: Tradition in windmills': <http://www.let.rug.nl/polders/boekje/tradition.htm>)

## Style

As discussed above, the windmill design is based on a Dutch corn mill. There are a number of different types of windmill, some of which are used as corn mills:

According to their outward appearance the following windmills can be distinguished: the post mill (*standaardmolen*), the hollow post mill (*wipmolen*), the large Dutch drainage mill (*kloeke poldermolen*), the smaller types of drainage mill, the tower mill with a stage (*stellingmolen*), the *paltrok*, and the cylindrical tower mill without a stage (*torenmolen*).

Smock and tower mills are called *bovenkruiers* (lit. upper winders) and are subdivided into *binnenkruiers* (lit. inside winders), whose caps are turned by a winch inside the cap itself, and *buitenkruiers*, which have the winch on the end of a tail pole. There are also *beltmolens*, built in mounds, and windmills whose towers rise straight from ground level; these latter are called *grondzeilers* (lit. ground-sail mills).

Finally windmills are classified according to the task they perform into drainage mills, corn mills, sawmills, and further a group of industrial mills all of which, with some variations, have more or less similar, factory-like interior equipment and comprise oil mills, fulling mills, paper mills, and the like.

All these classifications are to some extent arbitrary. A corn mill is usually a tower mill with a stage and a tail pole; if it stands on a town wall, it will also be called a *walmolen* or wall mill.

Again a *wipmolen* or hollow post mill is sometimes a corn mill, while on the other hand occasionally (though rarely) a drainage mill with a stage is to be found.

A *paltrok* is always a sawmill, but there are also sawmills which are smock mills, nor is a small *wipmolen* on the roof of a barn unknown, which acts as a *lattenzagertje* (small sawmill in which laths are sawn).

It is called a *bovenkruier* (cap winder), but the name is an indication of the variety rather than a name for a particular type.

These large drainage mills were developed in the watery region of North Holland in the second half of the sixteenth century. They evolved logically from the wip mills when the top was made smaller and the mill body proper larger, in consequence of which the mills could generate a much greater power while still remaining manageable. The larger construction also provides more suitable living accommodation. These mills soon ousted the wip mills in the fight against the water.

The cap is turned in the top of the mill on the inside with the aid of a winch with a hand-wheel or a handle.

It is a constantly recurring and fatiguing job for the miller to go upstairs to turn the mill whenever the direction of the wind changes. The further development of these large mills therefore was in the direction of making it possible to turn the cap from below, viz. on the outside by means of a tail pole. Thus arose the familiar large mill of South Holland.

It is curious that in spite of this ease of handling of the *buitenkruier* or outside winder the unchanged North Holland type yet has held

its own to this day and the type has been preserved as the *binnenkruier* or inside winder. Outside the province of North Holland this type does not really occur, but several drainage mills in South Holland still show signs that they must once have been inside winders.

The only type found in South Holland is the outside winder, the familiar large classical drainage mill or octagonal mill.

The type of mill in Foxton is a *Stellingmollen*:

The *stellingmolens* are familiar to us as industrial mills and corn mills. It is only rarely, as at Haastrecht, that a tower mill with a stage is used as a drainage mill. On the other hand there are corn mills built as *grondzeilers*, where wind conditions are such that a tall mill is not necessary.

The stage dominates the outward appearance of the mill entirely, and that is why it is often called a 'Stage Mill'. They are huge structures; their height is properly appreciated when they are seen in the midst of the town houses, as at Schiedam, for instance.

The tall construction is eminently suited for corn-milling; there are as many as six or seven floors and each floor can be used for a separate part of the process. The grain is hoisted up in sacks to the bin floor; this is done quite simply by means of the sack hoist, which is driven by the wind power. The grain then flows by gravity from the hoppers to the stones on the stone floor, where it is ground. The meal flows to a lower floor, the meal floor, where it is collected in sacks. Below the meal floor are the grain floor and the grain store.

The stone floor or the meal floor, or a combination of the two, as a rule is to be found at the level of the stage; the latter can only be reached from the inside.

Above the bin floor is the dust floor and above this is the top floor in the cap. On the dust floor there is sometimes an awful mess: dripping oil, dust, smoke from the chimneys whirling round there before escaping through openings and chinks, so that the miller enters this part of the mill only when necessary.

In the lower part of the mill the first (and sometimes the second) floor form the living quarters for the miller and his family; this accommodation is very spacious and comfortable when we compare it with that of a drainage mill.

The space inside the cap of the outside winder can be smaller than is necessary in the North Holland type and this is clearly visible from the outside. The appearance of the North Holland mill is more solid and less elegant, but it is very sturdy, powerful, and tall.

The large South Holland type mill not only has a smaller cap, but also a tapered form, so that it is more elegant, while moreover it has a rakish tail and owing to its gracefully curved lines makes a much more handsome impression; the inside winder always strikes us as rather 'bare' and uncompromising.

A further outward difference to be noted is that the windmill of the North Holland type has a wooden base, which is higher and is covered with overlapping boards, which are tarred or painted. The base of the South Holland windmill is somewhat less high and built of brick. The body of both types is usually thatched.

The diameter of the tower mill, which is always round and made of brick, at the foot is about 30 feet. Several rooms and cabins are present, all of which - owing to the round shape of the mill - have windows giving out on the surrounding scenery; thus they form a very pleasant interior. On the ground floor are the big stable doors, two pairs facing each other, for the horse and cart, which brings the grain or takes the meal to the customers, to enter and leave the mill.

As already said, the loading and unloading of the sacks takes place with the aid of the sack hoist in the top of the mill. Square holes are cut in each floor, vertically above each other, through which the sacks are hoisted. Each hole is closed with a double-flap trap-door having a hole in the centre, for the hoisting rope to pass through. When the sacks are hoisted, they themselves push up the two flaps; when the sack has passed through, the flaps close automatically again, thus closing the opening.<sup>216</sup>

**Setting**

The windmill is located at the rear of the former Municipal Chambers, which fronts Main Street. Opposite the windmill is the local swimming baths, the Foxton Pools, while to the west is the Manawatu River.

To the south of the site is a relocated railway station serving as a café and information centre, while to the south west and west are gabled sheds with displays of former industries in area. To the north west is a currently vacant building which will become home to Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. The site is generally flat with extensive grassed areas, and asphalt and concrete paths.

<sup>216</sup> <http://www.let.rug.nl/polders/boekje/types.htm>

To the east of the site is the main commercial area of Foxton, which has a generously wide street that extends north from Seaview Gardens in the south, to Ihakara Gardens in the north. Both gardens are on small hills and visually contain the street. Shops in the commercial area are either single or two storeyed and date mainly from the Edwardian period. There are several discrete blocks of shops as well as several residential buildings and two churches.

The scale of the windmill means that it visually dominates the street.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This building has **local** significance for demonstrating high **historic**, high **social**, moderate **architectural**, high **technological** and high **setting** values.

When assessed against Council’s Thematic Framework De Molen is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following theme and subtheme:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social/cultural</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windmill representative of the District’s Dutch community</li> </ul>

**Values**

The windmill has high **historic** values as the only authentic Dutch corn mill to be constructed in New Zealand. It has high **social** values as the only memorial to Dutch immigrants throughout New Zealand. The only other windmill known to still exist is a replica of a windmill built in 1853 by Dr. Bush built in Nelson’s Founders Park. It has high **architectural** and **setting/group** values as a highly visible and unique architectural landmark in Foxton.

The working mechanism of the mill was considered to have been built to a very high standard and, as the only authentic working Dutch *Stellingmolen* corn windmill in New Zealand, has high **technological** values.

### Measure

The building appears to have high levels of external **authenticity**, while also having a high level of **integrity**. The design style is unique in New Zealand

### RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that De Molen is listed as a Group 2 building in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

### ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	H
Social	H	Archaeological	
Architectural	H	Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	H		
<b>Significance</b>	National	Regional	<b>Local</b>
<b>Recommended Group</b>			<b>2</b>

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Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.

## H67 - Whitaunui Military Defaulter's Camp



### SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Current Owner:</b>	R.R. and M.L. Bielski Limited
<b>Address:</b>	1027 Foxton-Shannon Road, Moutoa
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Moutoa 116 Block
<b>Certificates of Title:</b>	WN602/93
<b>Construction date:</b>	From 1910
<b>Architect:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Original Owner:</b>	Whitaunui Ltd. (1910), NZ Govt. (1939)
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown (various)

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

*Unless otherwise referenced, much of this report relating to the Defaulters' Camp itself, originated as Palmerston North historian Margaret Tate's as-yet-unpaginated text entitled 'An Indeterminate Sentence: The Shannon Objector Camps 1942-1946.' That article is being published in Volume 12 of the Manawatū Journal of History, in 2016. However, much of the information on the Whitaunui Flaxmill that preceded the cam, is new research.*

The World War Two (WWII) camp for conscientious objectors' near the Moutoa Hall on the Foxton-Shannon Road was known by a variety of names. Firstly, was the problem of the spelling used for the locality, which correctly is spelt 'Whitaunui'. 'Whitau' means prepared fibre of Phormium tenax (more commonly known as flax) and 'Nui' means large. Thus Whitaunui translates to 'big or large prepared flax fibre' – a name befitting of the old flaxmill once on the site. However, despite the correct spelling of the name, the camp was always identified under the spelling 'Whitanui'. This matched the phonetic pronunciation of the name that was in vogue within the Pakeha community around the time of both the camp and also the flaxmill that preceded it.<sup>217</sup>

In this study, the miss-spelling of the name is acknowledged, however, the correct spelling is deemed the more appropriate to use in a present-day document. That the correct spelling is now used for the locality and the nearby Whitaunui Road (which is across the Manawatu River from the old flaxmill/camp site) also suggests the appropriate way to handle the old error. It is noteworthy that the flaxmill's owners, in at least some of their own published notices, used the correct spelling of Whitaunui. Similarly, the *Horowhenua Chronicle* routinely used the correct spelling in the 1910s (unlike other newspapers).

<sup>217</sup> Email dated 2 May 2016, Todd Taiepa (Principal Maori Advisor, PNCC) to Margaret Tate (forwarded to myself on the same date - VB)



Figure 44 Overlooking the Whitaunui Detention Camp accommodation area, between 1942 and 1946, with the Tararua Ranges in the distance. The driveway to left, is now the farm's main driveway, leading between the Foxton-Shannon Road, and the cowshed. The driveway leading off to the right in this photo, then lead toward the present-day hayshed site (perhaps once the scutching shed site ). It now also leads to the farm's homestead which is on the near (clothes line) side of that driveway, as shown here.

(Source: Hocken Collection, University of Otago, Library: Asset ID: 7711

<http://hockensnapshop.ac.nz/nodes/view/3232>)

The rest of the title of the camp's name also varied significantly in the contemporary records. The two local camps for conscientious objectors at Whitaunui and nearby Paiaka (and indeed the others around the country) were variously referred to as detention camps, defaulters' detention camps and military defaulters' camps, as well as other unofficial names intended as insults. The Whitaunui Defaulters' Detention Camp housed

conscientious objectors, but the latter term certainly was not included in the official name of the camp itself during its lifetime.<sup>218</sup>



Figure 45 Approximately the same scene on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, with the driveway leading to the big old shed, in the foreground. It is thought that the white-painted rocks that lined the driveway in the 1940s, might now possibly be some of the large rocks still forming rockeries in the vicinity of the house now, as this is not a stoney farm and the rocks will have needed to have been brought to the location. The flaxmill cottages once stood at about the centre of this scene, but in the distance and just before the trees shown (which in turn are on the opposite side of the Foxton-Shannon Road).

<sup>218</sup> For example, *Evening Post*, 6 March 1945, p. 7, 26 May 1945, p. 9; *Press*, 20 September 1944, p. 7



Figure 46 The small one-man and two-man accommodation huts at Whitaunui Detention Camp, beyond the driveway leading in the direction of the large old shed that may have once been the site of the scutching shed. The photo was taken between 1942 and 1946. (Source: Hocken Collection, University of Otago, Library: Asset ID: 7706: <http://hockensnapshop.ac.nz/nodes/view/3227>)

Nowadays, the actual remains of the Whitaunui and Paiaka camps amount to a random selection of concrete foundations and various old pipes. Identifying what they once were can be difficult. In Whitaunui's case, an uncertain number of these old remnants relate to the old flaxmill, but it is likely that many of these structures were repurposed for the camp. The Paiaka camp, which is not part of this report, was located in Springs Road. The two camps housed some 250 men during their four-year existence.

### **The Whitaunui Flaxmill**

In the absence at this time of an early plan of the property, a way to try to sort out the various buildings present in 1942 requires studying the former Whitaunui Flaxmill.



Figure 47 Approximately the same scene on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, with the driveway leading to the big old shed, in the foreground. It is thought that the white-painted rocks that lined the driveway in the 1940s, might now possibly be some of the large rocks still forming rockeries in the vicinity of the house now, as this is not a stoney farm, and the rocks will have needed to have been brought to the location. The flaxmill cottages once stood at about the centre of this scene, but in the distance and just before the trees shown (which in turn are on the opposite side of the Foxton-Shannon Road).

Marjorie Law's book, *From Bush & Swamp: The Centerary of Shannon 1887-1987* (p. 101), states that the Whitaunui Flaxmill operated between

1910 and 1922, although these dates are not entirely correct. The Whitaunui mill originated with a 1,650-acre block of swampland that was purchased in 1906 from the Makerua Estate Company. The buyers were Messrs Jupp and Heyes. In March 1908, they sold the property to a small syndicate that included Harry Greig, then managing director of Temukanui Ltd., which was based at Tokomaru. Greig then also became managing director of the resulting new company, 'Whitaunui Limited'. This firm was, at the time of purchase, intending to have one mill in Foxton and two near Shannon. The price paid for the land, which included existing "mills" was described as "something over £40,000."<sup>219</sup> The principal shareholders of Whitaunui Limited were Harry Greig, Reg Bell and F.W. Wilson.<sup>220</sup>

However, on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1909, the Whitaunui Flaxmill was destroyed by fire. The fire had started in the "tow hole" and had then been fanned by a strong westerly wind. It quickly spread to the engine room. However, the fibre had with difficulty been saved from the scutching shed. The mill was uninsured.<sup>221</sup>

In early 1910, Whitaunui Ltd. purchased the property at Moutoa of a Mr Jagger<sup>222</sup> and this seems to be the land that subsequently became the detention camp. The *Manawatu Standard* of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1910 (p. 6) reported that: "It is possible that the Whitaunui Flaxmilling Company will erect a four-stripper mill on the property they have recently purchased at Moutoa from Mr Jagger." This land was on the opposite bank to the company's flax swamp land and explains why Whitaunui Road is on one side of the river, while the mill was on the other. This now meant that the flax had to be transported across the Manawatu River for processing.

<sup>219</sup> *Bush Advocate*, 20 March 1907, p. 4

<sup>220</sup> Marjorie D. Law, *From Bush & Swamp: The Centenary of Foxton 1887-1987* (Palmerston North, 1987), p. 101

<sup>221</sup> *Evening Post*, 19 October 1909, p. 8

<sup>222</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 28 April 1910, p. 2. It is likely that this was a Mr A. Jagger, who subsequently purchased another property about half way between Shannon and Foxton.

The replacement mill was described in the *Horowhenua Chronicle*, of 13<sup>th</sup> August 1910 (p. 4):

*"According to the 'Auckland Weekly News', Mr H. Greig is likely to start three of the four strippers of the large mill at Moutoa, which is being erected by Whitaunui, Ltd., at the latter end of next month. A 200 h.p. Babcock and Wilcox water tube boiler has been installed. A 130 h.p. engine will drive the stripper and a 60 h.p. will drive the scutchers. The pump for supplying the Suttie-Wynyard machines will be a 10-inch centrifugal, capable of lifting 1000 gallons of water per minute. A steam winch will be employed to haul the green leaf across the Manawatu River from the tram-head by means of an aerial wire rope. The leaf will be landed in the yards which are practically on a level with the strippers."*

Several months later, the *Horowhenua Chronicle*, of 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1910 (p. 5) reported the following, under the headline: 'The Flaxmills'

*"The mill belonging to Whitaunui, Ltd., at Moutoa closed down yesterday for the Christmas and New Year Holidays. The company have installed two scutching machines, one of which has been running for a month, and one for a fortnight. During this period one hundred tons of dry fibre has been scutched, most of which was graded high point – 'good fair'."*

*"A noticeable feature of the above mill is the accommodation provided for the men. The old-time whare, with its tier upon tier of flea-ridden bunks, is here represented by a line of tents, comfortably pitched upon frames, while the board supplied compared favourably with that at any of the local hotels."*

In January 1913, Palmerston North architectural firm, L.G. West & Son, called for one, two or three separate tenders to undertake extensive alterations and additions to the mill buildings at Moutoa for Whitaunui Ltd. The work, which also included one contract at Temukanui Ltd's mill at

Tokomaru, was described as consisting “generally of accommodation for fifty men, stabling for thirty horses, septic drainage and other works”<sup>223</sup>

As the Temukanui flaxmill at Tokomaru was well established by this point, it seems likely that the accommodation and stabling, along with related drainage matters, will have been for the Whitaunui flaxmill. Margaret Tate, in *An Indeterminate Sentence*, writes that the Whitaunui mill workers had lived near the mill on the one bank of the Manawatu River, while the flax cutters had a cookhouse and living quarters on the other bank.<sup>224</sup>

In April 1914, L.G. West & Son again called for tenders for work for Whitaunui Ltd. This work consisted of erecting eight workers’ cottages at the Moutoa mill.<sup>225</sup>

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 1914, the *Manawatu Standard* (p. 7) announced that:

*“The Whitaunui mill will close down on Saturday, probably for six weeks, during which time a new cable will be erected across the Manawatu for the purpose of conveying the green flax across. The cable will be supported by two steel towers, designed by Mr Grieg. The whole of the construction has been carried out at the mill. The cable will be anchored on each side of the river in thirty tons of concrete. The steel towers will stand a pressure of 75 tons without buckling. The chief advantage accruing from this improvement will be that the green leaf can be conveyed across during the time that the river is in flood.”*

<sup>223</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 11 January 1913, p.

<sup>224</sup> Margaret Tate, ‘An Indeterminate Sentence: The Shannon Objector Camps 1942-1946’, in *Manawatū Journal of History*, Vol. 12 (2016), forthcoming - unpaginated.

<sup>225</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 17 April 1914, p. 3

There was nothing unusual about flying fox systems in remote industrial situations then. Some of New Zealand’s timber mills also had similar aerial systems for transporting logs over difficult valleys and streams.

According to Law (p. 101), the Whitaunui flaxmill ceased operating in 1922, this timeframe doubtless coinciding with the appearance of the disease ‘yellow leaf’ that badly affecting the District’s flax. The company did, however, advertise in the *NZ Herald* on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1923 (p. 1) seeking flax cutters. The former swamp was in due course drained and then converted into farmland in the 1930s.<sup>226</sup>

The Whitaunui mill itself evidently operated to some extent until about 1937. The Government, which was still trying to encourage the flax industry, then bought the mill in 1939.<sup>227</sup>

Industrial buildings known to have been at the mill site by 1942 will have included the flax stripping building and its large typically barn-like scutching shed. The site probably also included the accommodation for fifty men built in 1913, plus a 30-horse stable that may perhaps have been on the opposite bank. Then there were the eight cottages that had been built for the mill workers in 1914. These appear to have stood near the Foxton-Shannon Road. There was also further accommodation and a cookhouse on the opposite bank. In addition, there was the flying fox system for transportation across the river.

### ***The Whitaunui Military Defaulters’ Camp***

The Emergency Regulations Act 1939 was passed by the New Zealand Government shortly after the declaration of war and this gave the government wide powers. Difficulties with obtaining enough troops for overseas service led the Government to reluctantly introduce conscription, using the National Service Emergency Regulations of 18<sup>th</sup> June 1940;

<sup>226</sup> Law, p. 101; *Evening Post*, 5 November 1925, p. 16

<sup>227</sup> Tate, ‘An Indeterminate Sentence’

which in turn was made under the Defence Act and the Emergency Regulations Amendment Act of 31<sup>st</sup> May.

This amendment placed people and property in the hands of the government. Men aged between 18 and 46 became liable to be called up by ballot, with volunteering for army service ceasing from 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1940. The option to serve in the Navy and Air Force, however, remained voluntary. From January 1942, workers could also be 'manpowered' or directed to serve in the various essential industries.<sup>228</sup>

An irony was that the Labour Government then in power included four members of the cabinet (including Prime Minister Peter Fraser) who had been imprisoned during World War One (WWI) due to anti-subscription activities.

Traditionally the Labour Government opposed conscription, however, when the vote was taken to reintroduce it in 1940, only one man in either of the two Houses of Parliament voted against it. This was Palmerston North man, Mark Briggs, who was by then a Labour Member of the Legislative Council, but who along with the well-known conscientious objector, Archibald Baxter, had been one of the fourteen severely ill-treated WWI conscientious objectors. These men had been transported from New Zealand to the battlefields of France and forced (or in Briggs' case dragged along the duckboards) into the front line.<sup>229</sup>

<sup>228</sup> 'Compulsory Military Training in New Zealand', Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsory\\_military\\_training\\_in\\_New\\_Zealand#CITEREFMcGibbon2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsory_military_training_in_New_Zealand#CITEREFMcGibbon2000) Note that this information is footnoted as deriving from: 'Conscription' in the *Oxford Companion to New Zealand Military History* pp 117–120 (2000) edited by Ian McGibbon, citing pages 118–120. This publication was not sighted during this study.

<sup>229</sup> David Grant, 'Briggs, Mark 1884-1965,' in *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*: Volume Three 1901-1920' (Auckland, 1996), pp. 66-67; also *Evening Post*, 1 June 1940, p. 8

It is noteworthy that prior to the First World War, Briggs had been a Manawatu flaxworker; an executive committee member of the Manawatu Flaxmill Employees' Union; and also a supporter of the radical 'Red Feds'.

Being based at nearby Makerua in 1914 (and probably working at the Miranui or Weka Flaxmills), he will have been very familiar with the Whitaunui Flaxmill. While any role he may or may not have later played in relation to this camp or the Paiaka camp, has not been researched and must be considered speculation, the possibility of Briggs' involvement in some form (other than through his objection in 1940 to the camps being established at all) should be noted.<sup>230</sup>

The introduction of conscription, or compulsory military service, was the trigger that led to the establishment of the defaulter camps.<sup>231</sup> Conscientious objection had been allowed for under the legislation, provided the applicant could prove to the satisfaction of the Appeal Board that he had objected on conscientious grounds before the outbreak of war.<sup>232</sup>

Men could also be exempted from service on medical or compassionate grounds, or because of the importance of their civilian work. Men seeking exemption on conscientious grounds faced far greater difficulty. Only 20% of men seeking this means to escape conscription were successful. Another 40% were allowed providing they accepted non-combatant duties.

<sup>230</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 29 April 1913, p. 3; *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 6 February 1914, p. 2; *Manawatu Times*, 24 June 1916, p. 8. See also re Briggs: *Evening Post*, 1 June 1940, p. 8, 'Emergency Powers'; 14 June 1940, p. 9, 'Legislative Council'; 20 July 1945, p. 7 'Outlawing War'

<sup>231</sup> Te Papa website: International relations: World War II: <http://sites.tepapa.govt.nz/sliceofheaven/web/html/worldwarII.html>

<sup>232</sup> 'Compulsory Military Training in New Zealand', Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsory\\_military\\_training\\_in\\_New\\_Zealand#CITEREFMcGibbon2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsory_military_training_in_New_Zealand#CITEREFMcGibbon2000)



Figure 48 A closer view of one of the former huts (Hut No. 32) at the Whitauni Detention Camp, along with three inmates, Kevin Mulrennan, Joe O'Neill and Paddy O'Neill. Photographed between 1942 and 1946.

(Source: Hocken Collection, University of Otago, Library: Asset ID: 7704  
<http://hockensnapshop.ac.nz/nodes/view/3225> )

Of the remaining 40% whose appeals were dismissed, some reluctantly accepted military service, while around 800 men found themselves designated as 'military defaulters'. These were the men forced to spend the duration of the war (with no way to anticipate when the war might end) in camps such as that at Whitaunui. Furthermore, whereas other Commonwealth countries sought out alternative forms of service for such men, New Zealand did not. The Appeal Boards that made these decisions, tended to be very conservative and there was no consistency between the decisions of the various Boards. In addition, there was no central agency monitoring these decisions.<sup>233</sup>

Construction of the various defaulter camps began in late 1941, with the Whitaunui and Paiaka camps receiving their first inmates in June 1942. At that time, Whitaunui received 104 men, while Paiaka received a further 34. Eventually the two camps received a total of around 250 men; this being almost half of the 590 men who were held in detention long-term around New Zealand. Other camps were at Strathmore and Hautu in the central North Island and at smaller camps including a forestry camp at Balmoral in North Canterbury. Detainees were often moved between camps throughout this time. By January 1943 there were 803 men in 13 camps and sub-camps<sup>234</sup>.

The first batch of detainees at Whitaunui and Paiaka contributed a great deal to the setting up of the two camps, albeit that progress was slow. The huts to be used by the men were built by the Public Works Department. Most were two-man huts measuring 8ft by 10ft; however, there were also some 6ft by 8ft single-man huts. The unheated huts were furnished with beds with straw mattresses and a pillow each, along with old army blankets. The huts also had a small table and stool.

<sup>233</sup> Margaret Tate, 'An Indeterminate Sentence: The Shannon Objector Camps 1942-1946,' in *Manawatū Journal of History*, Vol. 12 (2016), forthcoming (unpaginated)

<sup>234</sup> <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH2-1Hom-c7.html>

The various buildings left over from the old Whitaunui Flaxmill were also put into use. These became the ablution and administration blocks, a store, a small hospital and a laundry.

In addition, the camp was surrounded by barbed wire fencing, along with power poles from which lights shone down onto the camp. The sight of the bright lights from the camp at night amidst the vast acres of dark paddocks, remained a lifelong memory for one local child, and present-day local resident, Jack Barber.<sup>235</sup>

The camp, and its operational routine, was intended to be less attractive than military life. Isolation was one of the intended goals. Only a family emergency allowed a detainee access to any leave; while visits by family were supervised and also difficult to achieve logistically in the wartime conditions. The Shannon Railway Station, now a heritage building in its own right, is recognised as having played a significant role in enabling families to visit their loved ones at these camps. Letters were limited and these were also censored, as were reports in magazines if the censor considered them unsuitable. Property owner, Mary Bielski, also understands that detainees were from time-to-time taken into Shannon, to trade goods that they had produced, for items available for sale in the town that were not available at the camp. These men were, however, heavily guarded during these outings.<sup>236</sup>

While these camps were required to include useful work as a goal for the detainees (such as servicing the camps and growing vegetables), in reality the main complaint was the futility of the work (hoeing weeds) undertaken in the flax fields. A particular sore point was the way the detainees were prevented from doing useful things for the wider community, such as

<sup>235</sup> Tate, 'An Indeterminate Sentence'. Jack Barber was one of Margaret's sources.

<sup>236</sup> Discussion with Mary Bielski, 11 May 2016

growing vegetables for other than the camp's own use or helping clean up after a large flood in 1943.

Strict discipline inflicted by the camp supervisors upon the detainees for possibly even very minor breaches of camp rules, also caused great resentment. There were apparently no clear checks on decisions made by the camp authorities. The camp did not fit under the 'Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, Geneva July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1929'<sup>237</sup> (also known as the Geneva Convention) that established the rules under which the enemy combatant prisoners of war at Featherston and the enemy alien internees on Somes Island, were held. Those prisoners (and their WWI equivalents) had the consuls of neutral countries appointed under the Convention to take an interest in their welfare. For example, in WWII the Swiss Consul-General watched over those camps, while the New Zealand representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was also actively involved with them.<sup>238</sup> However, unlike the inconsistencies experienced with the New Zealand internment camps in WWI, the prisoners held in all three classes of detention facility in WWII were paid for their work, albeit that the payment was minimal.<sup>239</sup>

Guards were also difficult to recruit and to retain due to the remote locations of the camps and the lack of suitable accommodation for the families of married guards. In addition, those guards who were recruited,

<sup>237</sup> The Geneva Convention, 1929:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva\\_Convention\\_%281929%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva_Convention_%281929%29)

<sup>238</sup> Mike Nicolaidi, *The Featherston Chronicles: A legacy of war* (Auckland, 1999). P. 135

<sup>239</sup> This was a requirement under the Geneva Convention for POWs and internees during WWII, but the previous Hague Convention with a similar rule, was often ignored on Somes Island during WWI. For example: Val Burr, *Somes Island Internment Camp for Enemy Aliens During the First World War: An Historical Enquiry* (A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of MA(Hons.) in History at Massey University, Palmerston North, 1998), pp. 181-187. Nicolaidi (p. 169) states that the commandant of the Featherston POW camp was elsewhere in the camp on 25 February 1943, working out details re wages to be paid to the POWs, when the killings there broke out.

frequently had no previous experience in such roles and their unreasonable decisions were known to enflame situations.

A comparable situation made famous in the United States in 1971 is that known as the ‘Stanford Prison Experiment’, and this background can also provide an insight into how complex situations might develop in pressure cooker situations like these camps.<sup>240</sup> However, ‘guard versus prisoner’ incidents sighted in the course of this study in relation to the New Zealand defaulter camps, in no way resemble the Featherston massacre of 25<sup>th</sup> February 1943<sup>241</sup>, nor the constant brutality and rule breaches inflicted by the guard staff upon the several hundred internees at the Somes Island Internment Camp during WWI.<sup>242</sup>

If prisoners at Whitaunui refused the menial tasks they were given, such as weeding the flax (as opposed to planting and cutting it – which they did not get to do), they could be imprisoned in Mt. Crawford Prison or sent to the Hautu camp, which was the primary punishment camp for defaulters. Some men escaped from the camp, with a few going missing for very long periods. When recaptured they were charged and sentenced to imprisonment. One was missing for 435 days; another for 241 days, and one for almost two years.<sup>243</sup> One man was recaptured after 466 days on the run, in the vestry of a Palmerston North church moments before he was to marry.<sup>244</sup> Another man was arrested in July 1945, 655 days after escaping from Whitaunui. He was imprisoned for three months and he was

also advised that he would still serve his full 655 days in prison after the war ended.<sup>245</sup>

Yet another Whitaunui escapee was recaptured in November 1945 after 772 days at large. He then learned that although the war was technically over, the formal peace treaty was not yet signed and so the former escapee was now to be held in one of the camps again. Furthermore, when the others were finally released, he was to be transferred to prison to serve the full 772 days that he had previously been free.<sup>246</sup>

In late November 1945, a Whitaunui camp inmate named Patrick James Hourigan, took a case to the Supreme Court arguing that the war that existed when the regulations came into force in August 1941, had been with Germany and Italy, and that this war had now ended. His sentence in November 1941 had been “for the duration of the present war” under Regulation 44a of the National Service Emergency Regulations. The various legal arguments however, concluded that the war had not yet officially ended and thus Hourigan’s bid for freedom was declined.<sup>247</sup>

The Whitaunui and Paiaka camps both closed in July 1946, some ten months after the end of hostilities. The final duties of the last prisoners to be released were to demolish the barbed wire fence. However, men had been gradually being released prior to that time. Some sections of the population had become concerned that these men had been in detention for up to four years, while the camps had been expensive to run. The camps were also no longer a deterrent to avoiding military service. Other public pressures had, however, said that these men should remain in the camps until the men serving overseas had returned. In the end, some of these men had remained in these camps even after New Zealand’s actual (former) enemy citizens had been freed. For example, the last internees

<sup>240</sup> Stanford Prison Experiment: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford\\_prison\\_experiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_prison_experiment)

<sup>241</sup> NZ History: Featherston Incident: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/classroom/incident-at-featherston> Forty-eight prisoners and one guard were killed in this incident.

<sup>242</sup> Val Burr, *Somes Island Internment Camp for Enemy Aliens During the First World War*.

The thesis found that assaults by the guard staff upon the internees was a constant through most of the time the camp existed.

<sup>243</sup> *Evening Post*, 5 September 1944, p. 7, 28 September 1945, p. 6, *Press* 20 September 1944, p. 7, *NZ Herald*, 21 September 1945, p. 8

<sup>244</sup> *Evening Post*, 6 March 1945, p. 7

<sup>245</sup> *Evening Post*, 25 July 1945, p. 9

<sup>246</sup> *Evening Post*, 15 November 1945, p. 4,

<sup>247</sup> *Evening Post*, 22 November 1945, p. 8, 23 November 1945, p. 9

were released from Somes Island in October 1945<sup>248</sup> and the Japanese prisoners of war from the Featherston Prisoner of War Camp left New Zealand bound for Japan on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1945.<sup>249</sup>

Amongst the men held at the Whitaunui camp in the course of the war were members of some well-known families. These included Terence Baxter, son of the aforementioned WWI conscientious objector Archibald Baxter and brother to poet James K. Baxter; and also Rex (Wrexford) Hillary, brother to Sir Edmund Hillary. The impact upon the men held in these defaulter/conscientious objector camps continued long after their release dates. This included the treatment sometimes meted out by classmates to the children of the “conchies” who may have been born long after the war ended.

After the closure, the remains of the Whitaunui camp were dismantled, with buildings, tools, timber etc., being sold locally. The Manawatu Catchment Board also purchased two of the camp’s staff houses from the War Assets Realisation Board in late 1947.

The property was then sold as a ‘rehab farm’ to returned soldier, Horace Edkin, who established a dairy farm there. His original certificate of title (WNPR 19/9) indicates that the purchase occurred in mid-1949.<sup>250</sup> The current certificate of title (WN 602/93) was then issued to Edkin in 1953 (for 24.1547 hectares). This already excluded the small block of land (0.1869 hectares) at the front entrance to the property where the two houses once were. The current certificate of title for that piece of land is certificate of title WNC/108, which issued in 1964 to the Manawatu

<sup>248</sup> McGill, David, *Island of Secrets: Matiu/Somes Island in Wellington Harbour* (Wellington, 2001), p. 122

<sup>249</sup> ‘Featherston Prisoner of War Camp’:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Featherston\\_prisoner\\_of\\_war\\_camp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Featherston_prisoner_of_war_camp)

<sup>250</sup> The current owner of the property, Mary Bielski, has a copy of this original title – and she described it in her email to Margaret Tate dated 16 May 2016.

Catchment Board. In 1965, this piece of land was transferred to Horace Edkin also. The fate of those houses is also unknown.<sup>251</sup>

In 1973, both properties were transferred into the names of new owners Raymond Russell Bielski, dairy farmer of Shannon, and his wife Mary Louise Bielski. In 1991, the property was transferred into the name of the couple’s company, Foxton Footwear (1983) Ltd., and this name in turn was altered in 1992 to R.R. & M.L. Bielski Ltd. The company remains the official owner of the property.<sup>252</sup> Raymond Bielski died in September 2015.



Figure 49 Foundations of an old toilet and shower (?) block – Whitaunui site, 11 May 2016. The detention camp’s accommodation ‘paddock’ is in the background beyond the foundations.

<sup>251</sup> Mary Bielski, 11 May 2016; Also, Certificate of Title WNC2/108 for this 1869 square metre property, issued 1964

<sup>252</sup> Companies Office: <https://www.business.govt.nz/companies> R.R. & M.L. Bielski Ltd. (ID 230930)

### Memorials

At present there is no memorial in New Zealand to the story of the conscientious objectors of both world wars. It is noteworthy that there is a memorial at Featherston to the Japanese prisoners of war held (and some killed) there in WWII and also on Matiu/Somes Island to the Italians interned there in WWII. However, like the conscientious objectors, there are also no memorials to the Germans and internees of other nationalities, held in New Zealand during both wars.

In 2013, the Archibald Baxter Memorial Trust<sup>253</sup> was set up in Dunedin, with a view to unveiling a memorial there in 2017, in memory of New Zealand's wartime conscientious objectors.

The new Trust's patron, 91-year-old Terence Baxter, had spent his war at the Whitaunui Camp.<sup>254</sup> In 2014, the Trust announced that it hoped to develop the memorial on a triangle of land in central Dunedin. However, their plans met with strong opposition from the RSA that deemed the site inappropriate, as the street (Anzac Avenue) was named after the soldiers who had fought in the wars. Trees in the street were also planted in memory of those who had fallen, and this link, along with a small area suitable to be a memorial site, had attracted the Trust to the spot.<sup>255</sup> Opposition then saw the Trust turn its attention to a site in the Otago

<sup>253</sup> Archibald Baxter Memorial Trust: <http://www.archibaldbaxtertrust.com/> & Facebook: 'The Archibald Baxter Memorial Trust'

<sup>254</sup> 'Pacifists also deserving of recognition', *Otago Daily Times*, 30 December 2013: <http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/286794/pacifists-also-deserving-recognition>

<sup>255</sup> 'Memorial planned for wartime objectors,' Newshub, 23 June 2014: <http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/memorial-planned-for-wartime-objectors-2014062312#axzz47qaKfjy6>; also: 'Objection to Anzac Avenue memorial', Radio New Zealand: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/247900/objection-to-anzac-avenue-memorial>

Museum reserve, which already had a peace memorial. The significance of Dunedin was that Archibald Baxter had been an Otago farmer.<sup>256</sup>

On Anzac Day 2016, three sculptures of a temporary nature were installed around central Wellington by the group Peace Action Wellington. A petition was then set up that sought to have the Wellington City Council allow a more permanent memorial to the conscientious objectors, to be erected in that city.<sup>257</sup>

### Remains of the Flaxmill and Detention Camp

The little accommodation sheds shown in photos of the camp, stood in what is still a small paddock, immediately in front of the property's homestead which in turn was built by Horace Edkin after he took over the farm. The present property owner, Mary Bielski, advises that this paddock has never been ploughed over during the time the property has been in their ownership and she wonders if anything remains from the time, hidden beneath the surface of the paddock.

<sup>256</sup> 'Men of Conscience', *Otago Daily Times*, 17 November 2014: <http://www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/323316/men-conscience>

<sup>257</sup> "[www.change.org](http://www.change.org) petition entitled: 'A permanent conscientious objector memorial in Wellington' (April 2016)



Figure 50 A different kind of war: Te Papa staff removing one of Peace Action Wellington's three 'Archie Sculpture' pop-up war memorials to conscientious objectors, on Anzac Day 2016. 'Archie' represents the WWI experience of Archibald Baxter. (Note that the sculpture was not a real person) (Source: This copy: <https://reneejg.net/2016/04/26/te-papas-response-to-engagement-quiet-yet-arresting/> O

One of the early photos of the huts also shows a driveway lined with white-painted stones. This area is now part of the driveway that runs alongside the Bielskis' house toward the old hayshed and beyond.

A small rectangular concrete building foundation, containing two small cubicles, is not far from the former 'hut paddock'. It appears to have been a former toilet in one cubicle and either a shower or urinal in the other cubicle. Certainly it had a water supply to it. The original purpose of several other structures is harder to distinguish, and the known presence of large numbers of flaxmillers living on site complicates decision-making over what might have once stood on these sites. One that is alongside an artesian bore, may have been a larger ablution block, or not. Another nearby that immediately overlooks a large open drain that predates the present cowshed layout, is also hard to interpret.

Other old concretework definitely traces to the flaxmill. The present cowshed has an approach race that has been built inside old demolished concrete walls. These old walls even have their steel reinforcing in place. Given the tendency on farms to re-use both old building sites and also their access driveways, this might well be the old flaxmill site. The related cattle race heading from the cowshed, to the site of the flying fox remains, supports this.

The flaxmill's old scutching shed might well have been on the site of the present old hayshed (which is now used to accommodate livestock; a horse on the day we visited the property). This old timber building, which has now mostly been reclad in roofing iron, stands on a concrete floor. The walls that are still timberclad, are clearly very aged, but perhaps not a century old. Mrs Bielski notes that there were a lot of bricks in this vicinity that are now buried under the surface of the yard adjoining this old shed. This indicates that another structure was also once there, possibly relating to the heating system within the scutching shed, if that was the purpose of whatever building was originally on this site.

Clearer remnants of the flaxmill can be found in the vicinity of the former flying fox site. Until about April 2016, the remains of the 30-ton counterweight supporting the flying fox were still visible, along with some of its wire rope. However, at that time, Horizons built a new stopbank over the top of this portion of the concrete-work. However, the foundations of an engine or pulley block (and possibly related concrete-work) are still present on the river side of the new stopbank. Mrs Bielski also recalls extracting a great deal of old barbed wire from excavations she has made in this vicinity, and possibly some of that was once part of the detention camp's perimeter fence. Satellite photos of the river in this vicinity suggest corresponding remnants on the other side of the river.

Of the eight cottages built on the property for flaxmill employees in 1914, the former location on the property of six of them is not known at the time of this study. However, the last two, which were sold to the Manawatu Catchment Board after WWII, stood together on the land that is still on a separate title and which fronts the Foxton-Shannon Road. Possibly the others also once stood in this vicinity. The fate of these last two houses is at present unknown.<sup>258</sup>

In terms of the history of this site, it would be of value to know if any of these cottages and sleeping huts survive somewhere and to be able to acknowledge them.

The nearby former Moutoa School site, along with its hall and its war memorial, has a relationship to the former flaxmill. While the present hall is new, the original one that it replaced traces to a meeting held at the flaxmill in 1912.<sup>259</sup> The fact that the former school remained on its site as long as it did, appears to relate in part to the mill's owners requesting in 1916 that it remain there. Possibly similar influences occurred after a complete

<sup>258</sup> Certificate of Title for this piece of land: WN C2/108

<sup>259</sup> *Horowhenua Chronicle*, 25 July 2014, p. 22

relocation was agreed to by the Wanganui Education Board in 1919.<sup>260</sup> Most likely the presence of the families associated with the mill and especially those living in the eight workers' cottages, influenced the local community to fight to retain their school. Although it is not known at the time of this study, just when the school closed, it does seem very unlikely that it could have survived the establishment of two detention camps so close to it.

Finally, at least two of the soldiers named on the Moutoa war memorial, were former Whitaunui Flaxmill employees. Given the nature of the prejudice towards the men held at the detention camp, the war memorial is likely to have been quietly regarded as a handy example of the price of 'freedom' paid by these earlier local men and that the WWII detainees had chosen not to pay. The opposing view might also have kept all parties grounded.

Refer to pages 100-103 for photos of the remains of the Defaulter's Camp/Flaxmill.

### **Acknowledgements**

Having both Margaret Tate and the editorial team preparing Volume 12 of the *Manawatu Journal of History* allow me access to Margaret's article '*An Indeterminate Sentence: The Shannon Objector Camps 1942-1946*,' has been of huge benefit to this report; as has additional material Margaret has subsequently obtained for me to further this particular study of the site. '*An Indeterminate Sentence*' looks at the impact on the men held at the camps, whereas my report is more clinical. However, it is noteworthy that neither study has included using the more detailed resources that must be available at Archives New Zealand (NZ) and similar depositories, beyond noting the titles of the various items listed on Archives NZ's 'Archway' website.

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<sup>260</sup> *Manawatu Standard*, 18 January 1919, p. 2

It was most interesting to have the opportunity to visit Mrs Bielski and her farm and to see the various remnants of the mill and the camp left on the farm. While the history of the various individual remains on the site are usually unclear, they collectively tell the story of both a past industry and also of a social history that even now is often not an entirely comfortable one for many.

I also wish to acknowledge my Masters of Arts thesis on the Somes Island enemy alien internment camp as having contributed to this story. That study included comparative studies of similar wartime detention facilities, both in NZ and overseas. WWI conscientious objector Mark Briggs also featured in a recent study of his former premises in Cuba Street, Palmerston North, as part of the *North West Square Heritage Precinct* heritage project conducted by Ian Bowman and myself on Palmerston North's Central Business District.

Finally, I also wish to acknowledge my workmate and friend Dianne Webster, whose father, Basil Charles ('Beau') Pratt was an inmate at Whitaunui for (she believes) much of WWII. He had been one of five men sentenced in the Magistrate's Court (in Wellington?) to a defaulters' camp on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1942.<sup>261</sup> On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 when I visited to check out site complications with my study, Dianne was also able to make what presumably was the first visit to the property by any member of her family since her father was released. It is precisely the near-total lack of knowledge left with the people most affected by camps such as this, long after the ex-inmate has passed away, that makes a seemingly ordinary collection of paddocks with a few random bits of concrete lying about in some of them, all the more important in the present day.

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<sup>261</sup> *Evening Post*, 28 January 2016, p. 6



Figure 51 This photo shows the layout of the various remains of the Whitaunui Flaxmill and the Whitaunui Detention Camp. Note that the camp did not extend across the boundary fence marked in the photo. The original aerial photo from 2011 also shows the flying fox's foundations on the other side of the river. However, it is possible that the stopbanks Horizons installed in early 2016 might also have affected those remains, as they did to the ones on this side of the river. The detention camp also used the flying fox. (Source: A satellite image from the Horowhenua District Council's website)



Figure 53 Foundations of an old toilet and shower (?) block – Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The detention camp's accommodation 'paddock' is in the background beyond the foundations.



Figure 52 A concrete 'dam wall' (?) - Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016.



Figure 54 Foundations of an old toilet and shower (?) block – Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The detention camp's accommodation 'paddock' is in the background beyond the foundations.



Figure 55 Foundations #1: A long rectangular building alongside a drain that leads to a small dam that pre-dates the cowshed. Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016



Figure 56 Old concrete foundations with reinforcing steel protruding from them, now used as a cowshed race, alongside the present cowshed. It is possible that they are part of a previous cowshed or something re-used from the flaxmill days. Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016.



Figure 58 Old and new concretework that now forms a cowshed race. The old wall includes protruding steel reinforcing. The original building possible relates to the flaxmill. The old shed detailed below, is in the distance - Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016



Figure 57 Part of the flying fox system. Both of these concrete blocks have four steel rods protruding from them suggesting that they once carried an engine and/or winch associated with the flying fox. A steam winch was employed at the flaxmill for this purpose - Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016



Figure 59 One of the above two concrete foundation blocks – and horseshoes, to indicate the size - Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016



Figure 60 An old shed with a concrete floor that may have an association to the flaxmill and/or the scutching shed. The yard where the horse is, once had a lot of broken bricks scattered around it, suggesting something that needed to be fire-resistant - Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016



Figure 62 One of the three bays inside the old shed. This is the only one (now) lined with timber, much like a loose box might be, but it is not possible to know when the lining was installed - Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016



Figure 61 The interior of the old shed, showing an original wall. It is not clear if it was built as a hayshed or as a mill building, but evidently ventilation was a necessity for it - Whitaunui site, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### Description

The farm in which the former camp and flaxmill were located has archaeological evidence of a number of structures of which their functions are unknown. These comprise concrete and brick foundations in several widely spread out locations. The foundations shown in the photographs above of this site include what was possibly a toilet and shower block, although further research will need to be carried out for any definitive information.

### Setting

The main site of the camp is set well back from the Foxton-Shannon Road with a long straight driveway from the road almost to the Manawatu River, which is the northern boundary of the farm. The farm is comprised of large, flat, open paddocks with the house three quarters of the way down the drive towards the river. The house is set in large trees, with few other trees on the property. The building foundations are located to the west and north-west of the house.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This site has high **national** significance for demonstrating high **historical, social, setting/group** and **archaeological** values.

When assessed against Council's Thematic Framework the Whitaunui Military Defaulter's Camp is in the Post-Contact Group and is considered to be representative of the following themes and subthemes:

Theme/s	Subtheme/s
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry</li> <li>Military/defence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flaxmill</li> <li>War memorial</li> </ul>

## Values

The site has high **historic** and **social** values as the former Whitaunui Military Defaulters' Camp established in 1942; the larger of two such camps built locally which together accommodated up to 250 men throughout the war period. There were a number of other smaller camps in the central North Island and another camp in North Canterbury, with a total of 13 camps and sub-camps throughout New Zealand.

A well known internee was Terence Baxter, whose father, Archibald Baxter, was a well known conscientious objector from WWI and whose brother was James K. Baxter, one of New Zealand's most famous poets. James wrote poems about the camp.

The camps were established to house conscientious objectors who were interned during the war. Their beliefs against war were based on Christian, moral or political grounds. Their incarceration, menial jobs and their release 10 months after the end of the war reflected the punitive attitude of the government and general populace of the time. They were considered to be "cowards and slackers" and their treatment was worse than other allies<sup>262</sup>. To some extent this antagonism continues today with hostility towards the erection of any memorial to conscientious objectors, even to those of WWI. This is despite memorials having been erected to prisoners of war of New Zealand's enemies at the time.

The site has high **historical** values as the location of the Whitaunui Flaxmill operating from 1906 to 1937, which was one of the largest mills in the area, with some of its buildings used in the camp. A local flax worker and later a member of the Legislative Chamber, Mark Briggs had been a conscientious objector in WWI and was opposed to the establishment of the Whitaunui camp. He, Baxter and others had been brutally treated throughout WWI for their views and to break their resolve.

<sup>262</sup> <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/second-world-war-at-home/in-dissent>

The site has high **setting/group and archaeological** values as the last remaining evidence of one of five military defaulters' camps as well as the flaxmill, of which a number of buildings were used for camp facilities.

Evidence of the flying fox structure to transport flax across the river has recently been buried in stop bank works. This may have **technological** values, but having been buried, it is difficult to assess.

### Measure

The site comprises foundation remnants and so has little **authenticity** and **integrity** but very high **rarity** as it is possibly the only remaining physical evidence of conscientious objectors camps in New Zealand.

### RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the Whitaunui Military Defaulter's Camp is listed as site in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

### ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Criteria	Level	Criteria	Level
Historic	H	Setting/group	H
Social	H	Archaeological	H*
Architectural		Maori cultural	
Technological/ Scientific	?		
<b>Significance</b>	<b>National</b>	Regional	Local
<b>Recommended</b>	<b>Site</b>		

\* An archaeological investigation has not been undertaken as part of the assessment of this property; it is likely that it may have archaeological values given that the site is associated with pre-1900 human activity.

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Compiled by Val Burr and Ian Bowman in August 2016.