

**An Archaeological Assessment
of the Sarjeant Art Gallery Steps
Refurbishment, Queen's Park, R22/440,
Wanganui**

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Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological assessment of a proposed refurbishment work at the Sarjeant Art Gallery, Pukenuamu or Queen's Park, Wanganui. The work proposed by the Wanganui District Council (WDC) at the gallery is to construct wheel chair ramps up the steps at the front of the gallery and to repair and replace foundations at the rear of the Gallery.

Queen's Park was once the site of a pa and later the Rutland Stockade and the associated soldiers' settlement. These were recorded in 2001 as archaeological site R22/440 in the New Zealand Archaeological Association site record file (See appended NZAA site record form).

Queen's Park is a local purpose reserve vested in the WDC that covers 7.2ha with about 5ha of open space. A number of significant heritage buildings and structures are located in the park. The Sarjeant Art Gallery is registered under the Historic Places Act 1993 as a Category I building in the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register (NZHPT Register No. 167) and is listed in the Wanganui District Plan.

Three other structures in the park, namely the Cenotaph (NZHPT Register No. 974), Veteran Steps (NZHPT Register No. 995), and the War Memorial Hall (NZHPT Register No. 7442) are also on the national NZHPT Register. These four structures are also listed in the Wanganui District Plan. Other buildings located in the park include the Whanganui Regional Museum, the Alexander Library, and the Davis (Public) Library and band rooms.

Under the Historic Places Act 1993 all archaeological sites are protected from any modification, damage or destruction whether the site has been previously recorded, or is unrecorded. An archaeological site is defined in the Act as a place associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 and that is, or may be, able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. Any person wanting to

modify, damage or destroy an archaeological site must apply to the NZHPT in Wellington for an Authority to do so. Where damage or destruction of archaeological sites is to occur mitigation is usually required. The gallery itself is not an archaeological site under the Historic Places Act 1993 as it was constructed after 1900 but because of the 19th century history of occupation in the park the area around and beneath the gallery steps constitutes an archaeological site as defined by the Act.

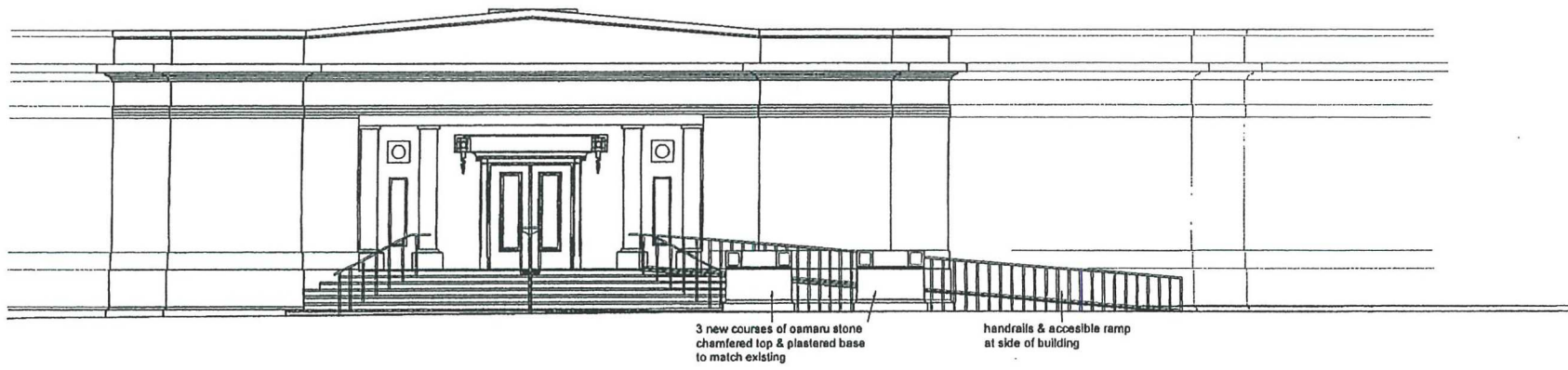
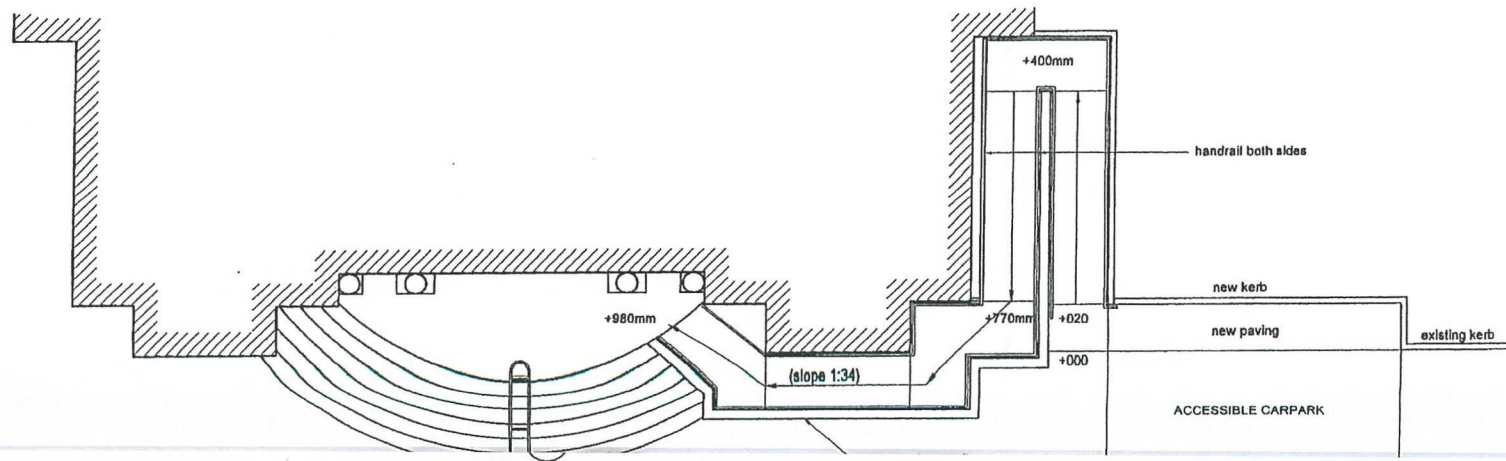
Archaeological sites are a finite and non-renewable resource. They are often very fragile and vulnerable. Each archaeological site is unique and once the archaeological values are damaged or destroyed they cannot be restored or replaced. Most archaeological remains are below the ground surface and are not visible so any disturbance of the earth on an archaeological site has the potential to cause damage or destruction to the remains under the ground.

This assessment was carried out and the report written by Archaeology North Ltd., to meet requirements for an application for an NZHPT Authority to damage or destroy an archaeological site (Gumbley 1995; NZHPT 2006).

Scope of Work

Briefly the refurbishment work involves the construction of a wheel chair access up either side of the gallery front steps with appropriate ramps, landings, paths, and landscaping on each front corner of the gallery in the area beside the steps (Fig. 1; Photograph 1). The exact final design had not been decided at the time this assessment was carried out and two preferred designs are shown in Figure 2. Note that although the drawings only show a ramp on one side of the gallery steps symmetrical ramps will be constructed on both sides of the steps.

The main impact of the refurbishment work will be at the front of the gallery, on either side of the front steps, where the construction of landings, paths and ramps will require excavation of the ground of an area over 40 sq m (20sq m on either side). Exact requirements for each side are different as on the left



2 PROPOSED ELEVATION - OPTION A
1:100 AT A3



We warrant that this drawing has been prepared by our qualified staff and that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. We warrant that the drawing is a true and correct representation of the information provided to us. We warrant that the drawing is a true and correct representation of the information provided to us. We warrant that the drawing is a true and correct representation of the information provided to us.

Project: SARJEANT GALLERY

Client: WANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Drawing Title: PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE RAMP

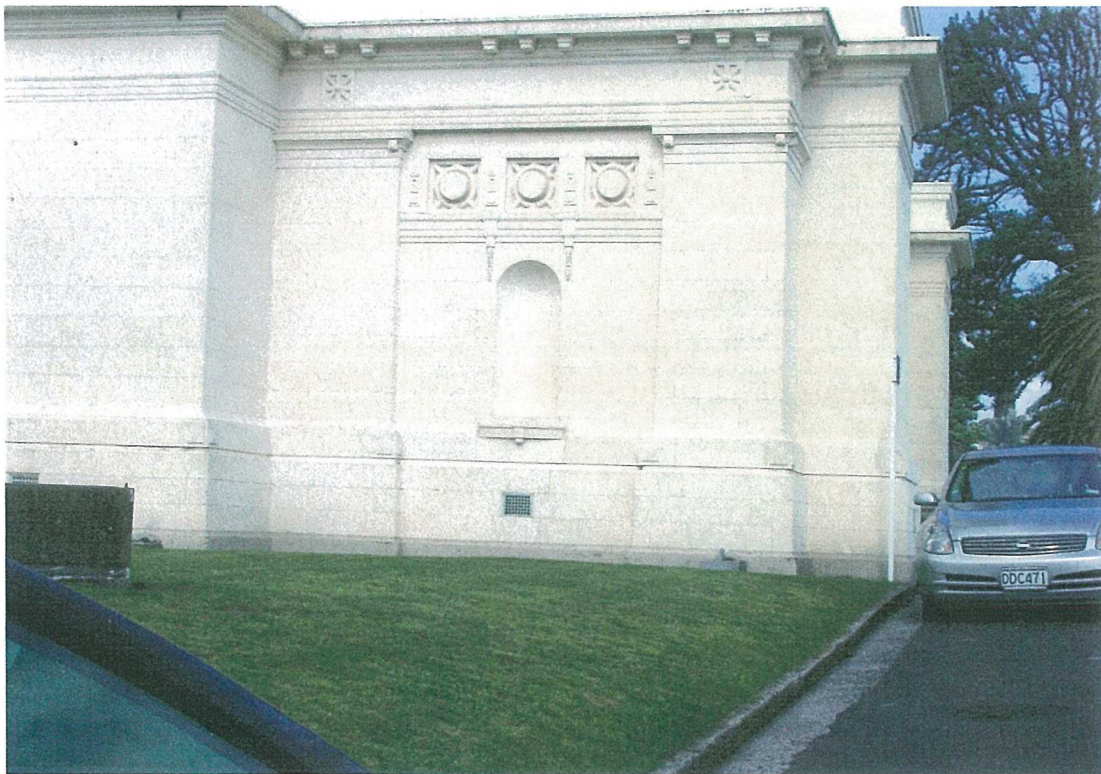
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Scale: 1:100 AT A3
Drawing No: W839
Sheet No: SK01

Figure 2: Proposed ramps, landings and landscaping at front of gallery.



Photograph 1: The ground beside both front corners of the gallery (under grass and tarseal) will be affected by the construction of ramps and associated works.



Photograph 2: Looking east to corner of the gallery where the landings and associated works will be constructed.



Photograph 3: Looking west towards the gallery corner at the level grassed and tarseal area that will be affected by the reburishment.



Photograph 4: View of the gallery back wall to be replaced where trenching will be required during the refurbishment.

side of the gallery steps the road surface drops away while the grass area there is higher (Photograph 2), whereas on the right side of the gallery the road and ground surface are level (Photograph 3).

At the rear of the gallery a trench needs to be excavated for the replacement of a block wall and footing (Fig. 1) where it is proposed to replace a concrete block wall requiring excavation of a 6m long trench, 1m wide and 0.9m deep (Photograph 4). Trenching to replace the wall will be necessary and will follow existing trench-lines but there is some potential to affect new ground and thereby exposing archaeological remains. The wall is part of a modern addition to the gallery.

Background

The hill on which Queen's Park is located is an old sand dune formed from black sand. A fortified pa once stood at the eastern end of the hilltop overlooking the Whanganui River. The hill was the site of fighting between war parties from Ngati Tuwharetoa and Te Atiawa (Smart and Bates 1972:33).

In December 1846 British troops of the 58th Rutlandshire Regiment arrived in Wanganui and commenced the construction of the Rutland Stockade to protect the colonial town. By April 1847 the Rutland Stockade was completed and the 58th Regiment moved in to garrison it (Smart and Bates 1972:68). Wanganui remained a major military centre and the stockade was manned by the British army for 23 years until 1870 after which it was used by colonial troops. British Regiments associated with the stockade include the 18th, 57th, 58th, and 65th Regiments and the Royal Artillery. After 1872 the stockade was used as a civil prison until about 1880.

In 1882 the hill was vested in the Domain Board under the administration of the Wanganui Borough Council. Beautification then began with landscaping of the park and planting of pine trees and grass. About this time it was renamed as Queen's Park in honour of Queen Victoria.

Five NZHPT Authorities have been issued in recent years to allow work in

Queen's Park. The most recent was Authority No. 2006/222 for upgrading of the Veterans Steps. Authority No. 2004/206 was for storm water separation that is on-going on a number of WDC properties including at the Savage Club near to Queens Park where a buried horizon with historic archaeological remains was uncovered during pipe installation. Authority No. 2002/03 for the installation of a storm water sump beside the Public Library uncovered some evidence of the 19th century occupation in the area. Authority No. 2002/27 for the construction of the Millennium Peace Sculpture on the site of the old band rooms uncovered considerable archaeological evidence including remains of dumping from the stockade's barracks and fireplaces.

Larger scale archaeological work took place in 2002 under Authority No. 2002/175 on the route of a new 70m footpath to the Cenotaph. Structures identified during the 2002 archaeological excavations included a military defensive trench that pre-dated the 1847 construction of the stockade, an original stockade fence, the remains of the 1870's Wanganui prison fence, the prison floor, and other structures associated with the prison as well as the remains of several footpaths made of gravel and clay with shell and/or crushed brick. Large quantities of artefacts, including regimental buttons and badges, bullets, percussion caps, glass, clay pipes, animal bones, and a variety of other objects of historic origin were recovered during the excavations and these are under-going analysis for the final reports.

The initial report to NZHPT and WDC on the 2002 Cenotaph footpath archaeological excavations concluded that the discovery of significant intact archaeological remains would have implications for future management and interpretation of Queen's Park as the park represented an archaeological landscape with considerable potential and that the survival of intact archaeological remains in the park is variable and their location does not appear to be readily predictable (Taylor 2002).

No archaeological evidence of Maori occupation has been located in the park during work undertaken under the NZHPT Authorities.

A review, by the Department of Conservation, of the current condition and archaeological potential of the blockhouses and stockades constructed in New Zealand during the 1840's, including Wanganui's Rutland Stockade, concluded that over the last 150 years many sites have been damaged or destroyed and that so little survives that any remains that still exist must be regarded as archaeologically rare and nationally important (Walton 2003).

The WDC's Queen's Park Management Plan (1992) recognises the archaeological values of the park.

Method

A field inspection of the proposed work at the gallery was carried out in August 2008 with Bruce Falk, Building Services Officer for the Property Group of WDC.

Previous research into archival and published sources for earlier NZHPT Authority applications was used for this assessment and only limited additional research was carried out for this application.

Results

Virtually all of the current refurbishment area at the front of the Sarjeant Art Gallery is covered with a variety of hard surfaces including concrete paving, concrete steps or tar seal or lawn (See photographs). These surfaces prevented an examination of most of the actual ground surface except in very limited locations.

Over-laying an historic map of Wanganui that shows the location of the individual buildings in the city in about 1866 including the soldier's settlement and Rutland Stockade in Queen's Park showed that the gallery is located in the same area as the huts or small houses used by the troops and their families (Barnard & Allen 1866). According to historic records many of these houses were built of raupo and toitoi and eventually were destroyed by fire in

the 1870's. The area was subsequently used for squatters cottages (Smart & Bates 1972: 79-80).

Discussion

Queen's Park is of major historic and cultural importance to Wanganui. As a central part of the heritage landscape that makes up the city of Wanganui the location is of considerable historical and cultural significance and similarly the archaeological remains of the Rutland Stockade and the associated settlement are of both local and national importance.

Despite considerable development at Queen's Park since late in the 19th century abundant archaeological evidence from the Rutland Stockade and associated soldiers' settlements is known to be present throughout the park. The remains include stratigraphically intact layers representing various phases of the historic occupation of the hill from at least the 1846 arrival of British troops to the 1880's demolition of the stockade and creation of the park. Many of the Queen's Park landscape features, themselves, including the terracing were created before 1900 and are therefore considered to be archaeological under the Historic Places Act 1993.

Previous archaeological investigations during construction work and maintenance in the park have revealed that significant archaeological remains are present in all parts of the park that have been tested. Near the gallery this includes at the site of the Peace Sculpture about 50m east of the gallery and storm water trenching by the Davis Library 50m to the north.

There is a reasonable expectation that archaeological remains will also be present in the area of the Sarjeant Gallery and therefore an archaeological Authority must be obtained from the NZHPT in Wellington before commencing any work that may disturb the ground.

Rutland Stockade was a major regional military facility and similar military sites occupied from the 1840's are rare or non-existent in New Zealand. This,

together with stockade's place in the development of Wanganui and the intact nature of significant portions of the site, gives the Queen's Park considerable archaeological value. The archaeological remains of the stockade and the associated settlement in the park are of national value.

The total area involved in the gallery refurbishment is limited but within this area there is potential for significant archaeological remains to be present and the area should be treated as archaeological until it is demonstrated to be otherwise. Whether archaeological remains are present can be simply established with archaeological excavation using either machines or hand tools as appropriate at the time the development is ready to proceed. Other construction earthworks on the site should be monitored by an archaeologist.

The area with the greatest potential for in-situ archaeological material is at the front of the gallery where refurbishment includes the construction of wheel chair access ramps, landings and paths, and landscaping. If significant remains, such as for example small house or hut floors or rubbish holes are present they should be investigated. Scattered or more diffuse historic deposits are also possible if old buried historic ground surfaces are encountered.

No disturbance of the ground should take place outside the area of the access ramps and related improvements and the wall foundation trench.

While significant delays to the refurbishment work because of archaeological requirements are unlikely provision must be made to allow sufficient time to undertake the any necessary archaeological investigation work if historic remains are located. It remains possible that buried historic structures or other significant archaeological remains may be discovered and delays could occur.

The contractor for the work should be provided with a copy of the NZHPT Authority and be fully informed of its requirements. It would be appropriate if provisions for archaeological work were included in the contract specifications for the work.

Conclusion

Queen's Park contains nationally important archaeological remains of the Rutland Stockade and associated historic soldiers' settlement.

There is potential for there to be historic archaeological remains located in the vicinity of the Sarjeant Art Gallery. Archaeological remains that are located throughout the park are protected under the Historic Places Act 1993.

An archaeological Authority under Section 11 of Historic Places Act 1993 must be obtained from the NZHPT in Wellington prior to any work commencing that may disturb the ground surface in the park.

The contractor should be provided with a copy of the NZHPT Authority and be fully aware of the requirements of the Authority.

Allowance must be made for delays to construction if archaeological work is necessary.

Archaeological requirements should be included in contract specifications.

References

Gumbley, W. 1995, Guide for provision of archaeological information and assessment for Authority applications under Section 11 or Section 12 of the Historic Places Act 1993, Archaeology in New Zealand, Vol. 38, No. 2.

NZHPT 2006, Archaeological Guideline Series No. 2, Guidelines for Writing Archaeological Assessments, NZHPT.

Smart, M. J .G. and A. P. Bates 1972, The Wanganui Story, Wanganui Newspapers Ltd.

Taylor, M. 2002, Initial report on Archaeological Excavations at the Site of the Rutland Stockade, R22/440, Queen's Parks, Wanganui, Unpublished Report, Archaeology North, Wanganui.

Walton, A. 2003: New Zealand redoubts, stockades and blockhouses, 1840–1848, DOC Science Internal Series 122, Department of Conservation, Wellington.

Wanganui District Council 1992 Queen's Park Reserve Management Plan Wanganui District Council.

APPENDIX

Site Record Form for Rutland Stockade, R22/440.

SITE RECORD FORM (NZMS260)

NZMS 260 map number: R22 NZMS 260 map name: WANGANUI

NZMS 260 map edition: 1st, 1987 NZAA METRIC SITE NUMBER: R22/440

DATE VISITED: June 2001 SITE TYPE: Stockade/ pa/ settlement

SITE NAME: MAORI Pukenamu OTHER Rutland Stockade

Grid References Easting 2 6 18151410 0 Northing 6 1 13191615 0

1. Aids to relocation of site Queen's Park Reserve, Wanganui City.

2. State of site and possible future damage The site was landscaped from 1880 and the Sargeant Art Gallery (1919), Whanganui Regional Museum (1928), Davis Library (1980), Alexander Room (1933), Garrison Band Rooms, Cenotaph, Veteran Steps (1892 & 1919) and Queen's Park School (1879, demolished 1971) have all been constructed on the site.

3. Description of site See attached articles. Site of the Rutland Stockade and blockhouses, constructed by British troops in 1847 and demolished in 1887.

An earlier pa occupied the eastern end of the hill (The Wanganui Story 1972:33, Smart & Bates).

A housing settlement associated with the Rutland Stockade existed in the vicinity of the Davis Library and later was a squatters settlement. In 1875 at least 30 dwellings were clustered on the slopes of Queen's Park (Smart & Bates p.79).

4. Owner Wanganui District Council Manager
Address P.O. Box 637, Wanganui.

5. Nature of information Brief visit during archaeological assessment. Published information.

Photographs (reference numbers and where they are held)

Aerial photographs (reference numbers and clarity of site)

6. Reported by Michael Taylor, Filekeeper *[Signature]*
Address Archaeology North, Date *D. Weston*
P.O. Box 7294,
Wanganui.

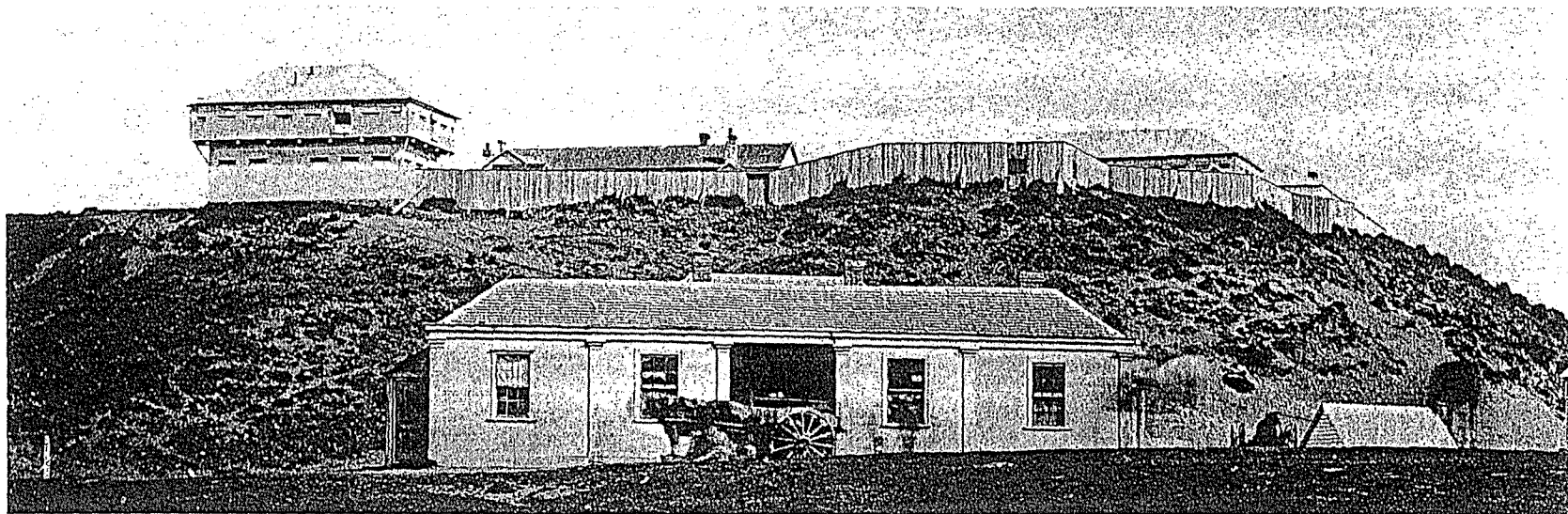
7. Key words historic, stockade, pa, settlement

8. Central file (for office use)

 | | Type of site | | Land classification

 | | Present condition & future danger of destruction | | Local body

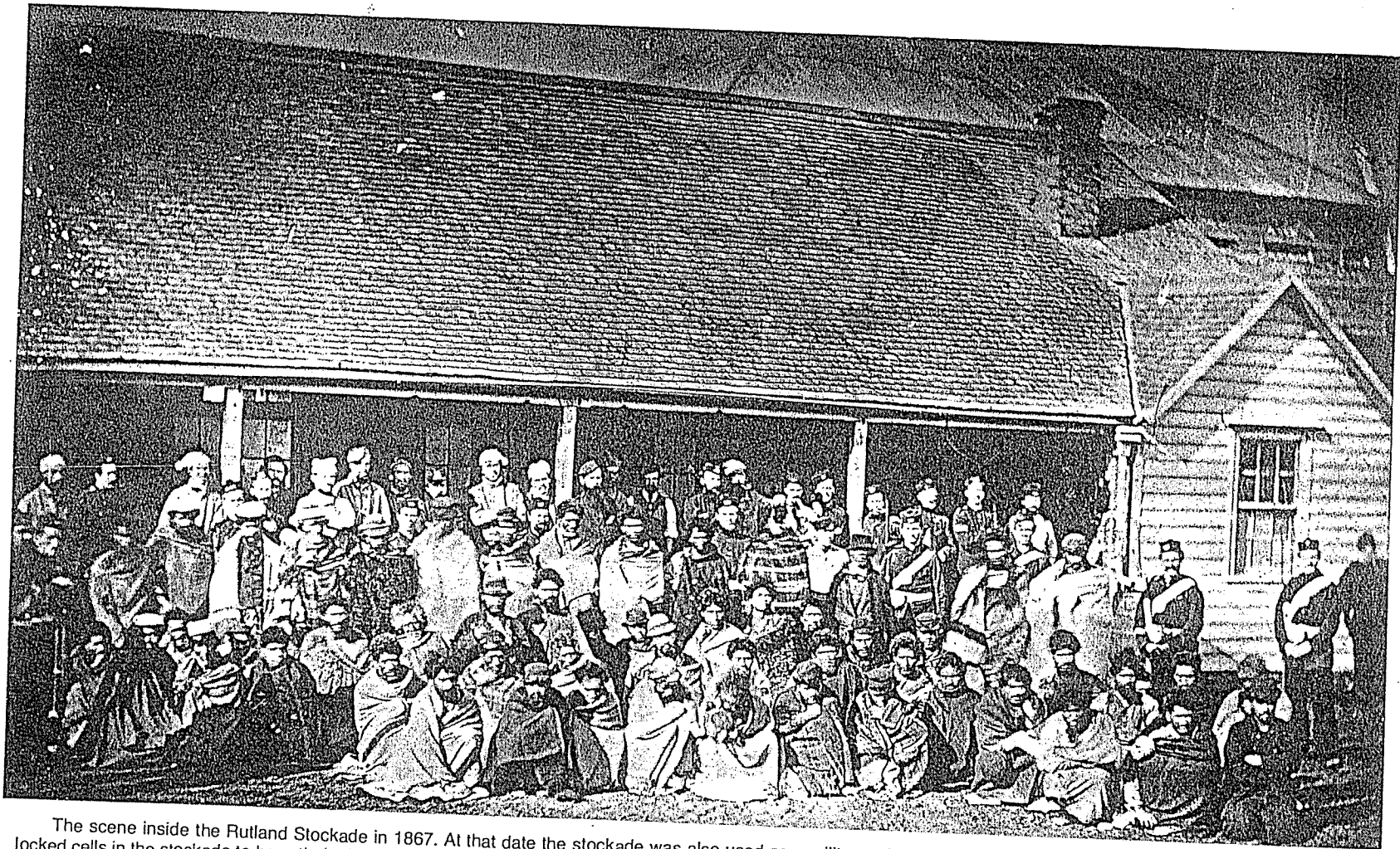
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The view from Moutoa Gardens looking toward Queen's Park in the 1860's. In the foreground is a building built in 1856 at a cost of \$1000 to contain the Court House, the office of the Chief Constable, lock-up cells and a warder's room. On the brow of Queen's Park stands the Rutland Stockade. This was built in 1846-1847 to protect the infant settlement from the district Maoris who resented the flood of European settlers who were arriving before finality had been reached over land tenure. The blockhouses included in the stockade layout, accommodated up to 100 soldiers. The total cost of the complex was \$7000. There was a corresponding stockade, the York Stockade, on the hill above Cook's Gardens but that was a much smaller unit. The Rutland Stockade was demolished in 1887.

Source: A Wanganui Photo Album
Arthur P. Bates 1982

R22/440

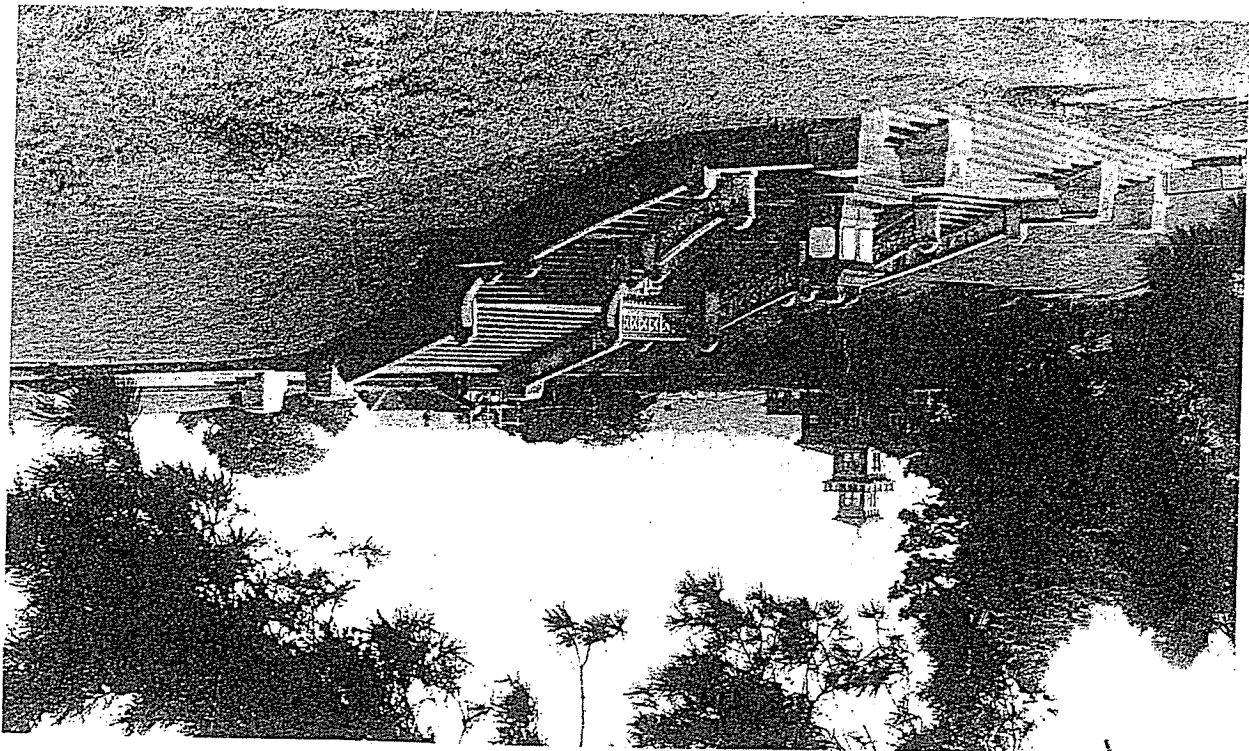


The scene inside the Rutland Stockade in 1867. At that date the stockade was also used as a military prison. Some of the Maori prisoners have been let out of their locked cells in the stockade to have their photo taken. Behind the prisoners are guards from the militia stationed in the stockade. Many of these prisoners were later sent to prisons in Otago.

Source: A Wanganui Photo Album
Arthur P. Bates 1982

Commemorating the Battle of Both Sides

The Veteran Steps in Queen's Park are such an integral part of the city landscape that we tend to take them for granted. However, the story behind the building of the steps is worth remembering ...



The Veterans Steps in Queens Park soon after construction.

ATTACK

In a prelude to the 1865 action, General Cameron had marched his 2000 troops up the coast and pitched his camp in the early afternoon. On the right flank of his camp was bush and the flat land was covered in flax and toetoe. The camp was suddenly attacked in daylight by a strong force of Maori supported by a large body which remained under cover. Many years later Tu-Patea te Rongo of the Pakakohi tribe recounted his first experience of battle. "Our warriors rose from their cover and charged on the soldiers on the command, Kokiritia! from the chiefs and then Puhia! (fire) was the word. "When the Pakeha opened fire on us we held our right hands up on a level with the face, palm open, and cried Hapa, Hapa! (Pass over) the charm which Te Ua told us would prevent the bullets from striking us. "Those who acted according to Te Ua's instructions were not hit. "He had his two atua Rura and Riki; but he was

Those who died in a crushing defeat on a British force encamped at Nukumarū on January 22, 1865 were honoured at a special ceremony in Wanganui in 1986.

At that ceremony on the Veterans Steps, a contingent of the 5th Battalion (Wellington, West Coast, Taranaki Regiment) not only remembered the dead of their allied regiment, the Queen's Own Regiment, but also the men of the Ngatihine tribe who went into battle under the leadership of Patohe. Two British Army veterans were guests of honour as a refurbished memorial stone was unveiled. The stone records the names of the men of the 50th Regiment (now the Queen's Own) who died at Nukumarū.

It had been hoped that an officer from the Queen's Own could attend from Britain, but it was later arranged that Lt Col. Newell and Major John Gallie, both formerly of the West Kent Regiment and now retired in New Zealand, would represent the Queen's Own. The WKR is now absorbed into the QOR.

Source:

History New
Attol Kirk 1994

also, as I have said an atua himself.

"One of our warriors, Pita Weka, charged right into an officer's tent in the camp and shot the officer dead."

This officer was Lieutenant Thomas O. Johnstone, Adjutant General of the 40th Regiment.

He was in fact severely wounded in this attack and died next day in the hospital at the Rutland Stockade. He was buried in the Heads Rd Cemetery.

The Maori account of the action continued:

"The fighting at Nukumarū on the first day lasted well into the night. We had 23 men killed. On the second day we attacked again, when the troops were at dinner.

PICKET

"There was a British picket near the scrub in a small field work. The Maori crept up into this with their tomahawks and disposed of the picket".

Major Withell had warned General Cameron of the dangerous proximity of the bush.

To this General Cameron replied: "Do you imagine, Major Withell that any body of natives would dare attack 2000 of her Majesty's troops?"

They did with disastrous results for the British.

A detachment of the 18th Irish Regiment under Captain Hugh Shaw came under heavy fire.

They retreated to a ditch but Shaw saw that one of his men was wounded and lying out in the open.

He dashed out and rescued the wounded man and for his action was awarded the Victoria Cross.

His companions who helped him, Privates James Kearnes, George Champitt and John Brandon, each received the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

The next afternoon the Maori attack lasted two hours and it was only when the British brought into action their two 6-pounder Armstrong guns which shelled the enemy positions, that any progress was made in repelling the attack.

Patohe called off the attack, abandoning 22 dead and two wounded, and carrying away about 70 dead and wounded.

The attack had cost the British force dearly. The 18th Irish Regiment had three killed and 12 wounded, one of whom died later.

The 50th Regiment had 11 killed and 20 wounded, including both officers of their outlying pickets, Lieutenant Wilson and Ensign Grant.

Never again did the British Army camp so close to bush, but always chose a site in the open.

The soldiers were buried where they fell. The grave was enclosed with a post and rail fence.

The officers and men of the 50th Regiment arranged for a headstone to be erected over the grave to commemorate their comrades.

No such stone was erected for the men of the 18th Irish or the Maori.

HEADSTONE

The 40th Regiment arranged for the headstone on the grave of Lieutenant Johnstone in the Heads Rd cemetery.

Over the years the grave was forgotten and the fence collapsed. Finally in 1892 it was decided to remove the grave to Queens Park.

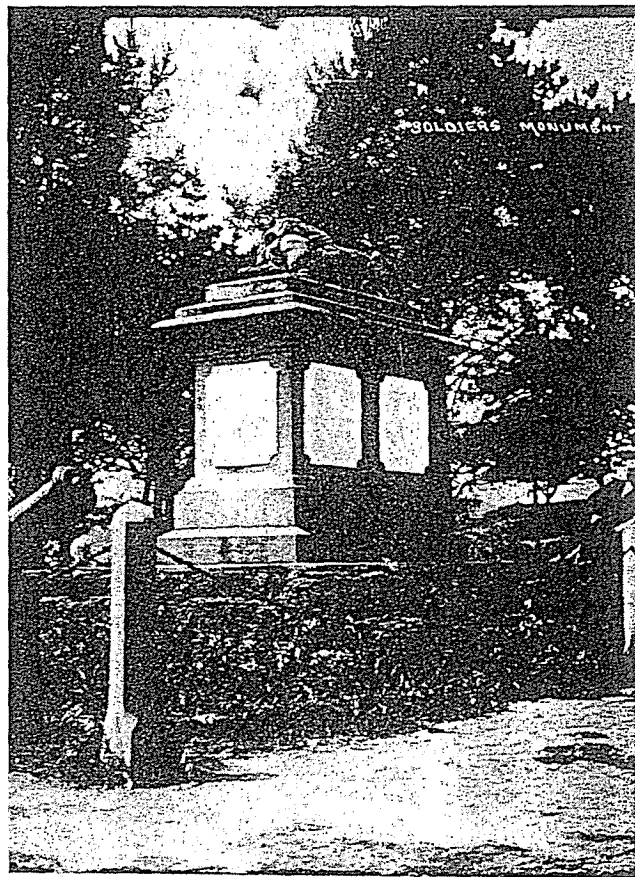
The men given the task found that the grave was far more widespread than they had anticipated. All this tends to confirm the fact that all the dead whether Maori or Pakeha were buried in a common grave.

So in March, 1892, the remains were reinterred at the Veterans Steps and the tombstone which had stood at Nukumarū was re-erected on the new site.

The action at Nukumarū was a salutary lesson for the British Army.

For the Maori they learned it was futile to sit in their hilltop pa and wait to be attacked by the British.

Instead the guerilla tactics which had proved so successful at Nukumarū were henceforth to be their means of attack.



The mausoleum of the fallen from Nukumarū soon after erection in 1892. The Veterans Steps were constructed around it in 1919.

Queen's Park - Once Wanganui's Slum

The lawns and well kept gardens of Queen's Park provide a peaceful area in the centre of Wanganui. But it was not always that way. Here is a glimpse at some of the goings-on in that area in earlier times ...

Queen's Park is today regarded as the city's cultural centre but it has had a turbulent history. It has witnessed inter-tribal wars, public hangings and was at one time the slum of Wanganui.

To see how it became such a slum one has to go back to the founding of Petre (Wanganui).

Early settlers found that the quickest and easiest way to get a roof over their heads was to engage the Maori to build them a Maori whare. Built of raupo and well thatched these whare were not only cheap but also weatherproof and warm in the winter.

Paintings of early Petre show many of these whare. However, being built of such inflammable material they were such a fire risk that in 1842 the government passed the Raupo House Ordinance Act which came into force on March 3, that year.

The main clause read:

"Due to the risk of fire, a penalty of £40 will be imposed on all houses, made wholly or in part of raupo, nikau, toi toi, kakapo, wiwi, straw, or thatch and situated within town boundaries."

The strict enforcement of the Act would have created hardship as pit sawn timber was practically unprocurable. Therefore in Petre the law was honoured in the breach.

In December 1846, with the arrival of men of the

58th Regiment, the housing situation became desperate. Single men were accommodated in the hastily erected Rutland Stockade. The married men however, were given an allowance and had to find their own accommodation for their wives and families.

The flat area where the Davis Library now stands was selected as a housing settlement and the Maori were engaged to erect 32 raupo whare. The presence of these whare contravened the Raupo Ordinance Act especially as the number grew.

To meet the situation the authorities passed an amendment to the 1842 Act on March 7, 1853 and it was duly advertised.

In August, 1867, the 18th Royal Regiment which had been garrisoning the Rutland Stockade marched out and the whare were vacated at the same time. However, they returned in October 1868, and history is silent as to whether the squatters moved in when the troops first left Wanganui or when they finally left on January 23, 1870. However, there is no doubt they were taken over in 1870.

These whare became known as "The Rookery" after the name of a slum area in London. On November 12, 1870, the editor of the Wanganui Chronicle wrote an editorial headed 'The Rookery'. In it he had this to say:

Source: History Now
Athol Kirk 1994

"Frequent complaints have been made lately to the police, who are powerless in the matter, about the class of people who have assembled on the Rutland Hill adjacent to the stockade. The soldiers when stationed there had erected a number of toi toi and raupo whare in which their families resided, and when the soldiers left Wanganui their whare were left standing. They were gradually taken possession of and occupied by a number of 'exquisites' who have obtained for their locale the suggestive name of "The Rookery".

The article concluded by stating that the area is well known as the rendezvous for questionable characters and suggested "The Rookery" should be destroyed by burning.

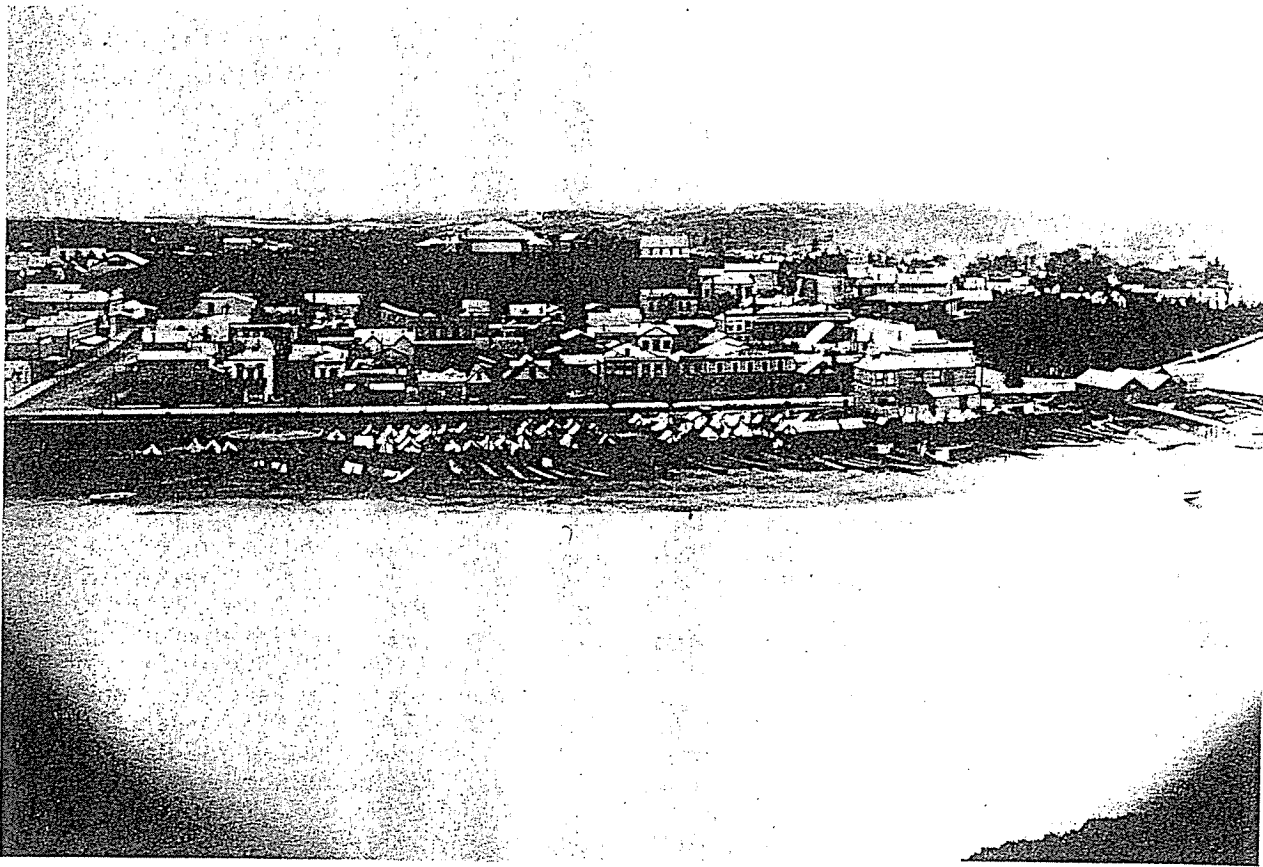
In 1872 when Wanganui became a Borough,

Queen's Park, being a reserve, passed to the jurisdiction of the new council and "The Rookery" was demolished and burned.

However, the impression got around that the reserve was common ground and many settlers without means built shacks on the reserve. By 1875 there were at least 30 of these dwellings dotted over the hill. They did not pay rates and for water used the well that formerly supplied the Rutland Stockade.

The sanitary arrangements were far from satisfactory and in 1880 the Borough Council decided to level and beautify the area. A few of the pine trees planted at that time still grow on the brow of the hill.

However, their days are numbered and with their felling will go the last reminder of "The Rookery."



Queens Park from Durie Hill in the 1880s. The Maori encampment is on riverbank.
(Photo Whanganui Regional Museum)