

# ŌWAIRAKA- MT ALBERT

HERITAGE WALKS



NEIGHBOURHOOD WALKS



# ŌWAIRAKA- MT ALBERT HERITAGE WALKS



'Ferndale', 830 New North Road, 1910s  
SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 7-A3050

Four trails are included in this booklet, each taking approximately one hour to walk. They explore different themes in the development of the area. The trails are introduced with an overview of the local Maori history.

## ŌWAIRAKA-MT ALBERT



### Farms and the Ballast Pit

This walk traces the Allen, Sadgrove and Kerr Taylor farms, where walkers can visit the Kerr Taylor farmhouse 'Alberton'. The walk notes the destruction of Ōwairaka through quarrying. There is a cycle way along Mt Albert Road for cyclists who wish to omit the cone from the trail. Walkers including the cone can either circle it by road or follow the tracks. Please note, the tracks are suited for agile walkers only.

### Genteel Mt Albert

This walk starts at the Methodist Church and shows the influences of the non-conformist religions on the development of the area. You will visit grand villas, Edwardian homes, Arts and Crafts houses and other bungalows. Mt Albert Grammar School and the Croquet Club are also included.

### The People's Walk.

This walk starts at Mt Albert Community Centre and loops round Wairere Avenue, Asquith Avenue, Malvern Road and Jesmond Terrace. These streets epitomize the housing boom of the 1920s. Fowlds Park can be included and St Lukes Church is visited at the end of the walk.

### Mt Albert Shopping Centre

This walk takes in the 1920s shopping centre and some of its historic plaques. It also notes the site of the King George's Hall and the removal of the Presbyterian Church.

### Caughey House - 'Rahiri', The Kelly House by Chapman Taylor, Woodward Home and Farm

These buildings are not included in any of the walks but are briefly described at the end.

Buildings and sites registered by the Historic Places Trust or scheduled in Auckland City Council's District plan can be identified using the following key:

#### New Zealand Historic Places Trust

##### REGISTERED IN CATEGORY 1:

Places of special or outstanding historical or cultural heritage value I

##### REGISTERED IN CATEGORY 2:

Places of historical or cultural heritage value II

#### AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT PLAN

##### SCHEDULED IN CATEGORY A:

Buildings, objects and places of outstanding natural beauty, or architectural, scientific or historical significance well beyond their immediate environs. Demolition of a Category A item is a prohibited activity. A

##### SCHEDULED IN CATEGORY B:

Buildings, objects or places of such quality that they should not be removed, damaged or altered significantly. B

*Privacy: These walks are along public roads and contain historical information about places in the area, most of which are private property. Please respect the privacy of local owners and businesses.*

#### Acknowledgements

*Cover image: View from Mt Albert. Shows ballast pit line, 1910s. Summit Drive runs horizontally across center with Stilwell Road running at right angles. Auckland Star Collection. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. 62817. 1/1.*

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## ŌWAIRAKA-MT ALBERT →

Ōwairaka - Mt Albert prior to quarrying, showing its terracing for occupation and defence. Painted by John Guise Mitford, 1845.  
ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON, C-089-013



Ōwairaka maunga and the other volcanic cones are said to result from the efforts of powerful tohunga from Waitākere to destroy a war party from Hunua. This was provoked by the illicit love affair between a girl of their people, Hinemairangi, and Tamaireia of Waitākere. Volcanic forces which were controlled by the unborn god child Rūaumoko, who was restless within the womb of his earth mother Papatūānuku, were released.

An alternative explanation for their formation is that the efforts of powerful tohunga threw them off the Waitākere coast to land in Tāmaki. Another suggestion is that their creation was caused by Mahuika, goddess of fire, who was called upon by Mataaho, the giant, to warm him. A further explanation is that Tāmaki Makaurau is part of the great fish caught by Maui and its irregularities were caused by his brothers' careless efforts to carve it up.

These traditions reflect tribal cosmological beliefs and explain the environment Māori ancestors and their descendants have encountered. They link ancestral names and events to landscapes and provide an unbroken association with the formation of Tāmaki Makaurau and its many generations of ongoing human occupation. They also reflect the spiritual nature of the mountains, associated with the actions of the gods themselves and the very body of our earth parent.

Originally, the maunga was known as Ōruarangi in honour of the chief Ruarangi. Besieged by his brother Ohomatakamokamo at Ōwairaka, Ruarangi and his people fled through a lava cave which some sources claim was a tunnel they excavated. Ohomatakamokamo and his warriors entered Ōwairaka at dawn when they heard the pā's dogs howling and found the tunnel. In many versions of the story Ruarangi is recorded as being too big to squeeze through the narrowest part of the tomo and doesn't reach the end.

Another early kōrero relating to Ōwairaka maunga involves a woman named Wairaka who lived there. Although she was married, Hauāuru, the west wind of Waitākere, yearned for her. One day when her husband, Tamatea, was away Hauāuru sent sweet sounds and words across the isthmus. Wairaka fell in love with him and they eloped together as far as Westport in Te Wai Pounamu. Tamatea caught up with Wairaka there and she allowed herself to drown in the sea reappearing as a rock pillar which still bears her name.

Titahi is credited for terracing and defence works on Ōwairaka living there for a time with a section of his tribe. During Titahi's time, Ōwairaka may have been the 'sister mountain' to his greatest carving, Maungakiekie. Although terribly damaged by quarrying, terraces, stone walls, pits and middens can still be found on the mountain today.

Just before the Te Taoū conquest of Tāmaki, Ōwairaka was a pā of the Waiohūa confederation of Tāmaki. Their ariki Kiwi would reside there in the kuaka (godwit) season from March to April and the tribe would go hunting. At that time, the peak population of the settlement is estimated to be around one and a half thousand.

The people of Ōwairaka sent warriors against Te Taoū o Ngāti Whātua at the great battle of Paruroa where the Waiohūa were defeated. Ōwairaka was captured and occupied by members of Te Taoū, Ngā Oho and Te Uringutu. Following strategic marriages between the Te Taoū and the defeated Waiohūa, the ancient bloodlines of Tāmaki were joined with those of the victors. Ngāti Whātua o Orākei thus shares descent from previous groups who have occupied Tāmaki over the centuries.

Today we recognize our role as kaitiaki for the wāhi tapu, wāhi whakahirahira (sites of significance) and histories of all ancestral groups that have occupied Tāmaki over time whilst acknowledging the rights of other descent groups to hold and tell their stories too.



Looking north east from Ōwairaka across Morningside and Kingsland towards New North Rd 1912.

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## ŌWAIRAKA-MT ALBERT →

The term 'Mt Albert' has many meanings. It was used to refer to the 2,500 acre borough created in 1911 and is also the name of the local volcanic cone. 'Mt Albert' was one of the five original wards within the Mt Albert Borough and it is used to describe the shopping area.

This booklet uses the term to describe the historical precinct roughly bordered by Mt Albert and New North roads, including the shopping area. The mountain is referred to as Ōwairaka.

The land was acquired by the Crown in 1841 before being subdivided into small farms. By 1847, it was sold to a variety of purchasers. Allan Kerr Taylor selected Mt Albert for his estate, bought over 500 acres and assumed the positions of 'squire' of the locality and 'father' of the Anglican Church. Other early landowners within the designated area were the Allens and Sadgroves.

In 1865, Allan Kerr Taylor subdivided Morningside and Albert Park. The sections sold well and a non-conformist presence was established. Access to these areas had been enabled by the development of New North Road. In 1866 Mt Albert settlers took the first steps to local governance by establishing the Mt Albert Highways District Board who set rates to improve and develop the roads.

The operation of a horse-drawn bus service and the opening of the Kaipara railway line in 1880 made Mt Albert even more accessible. Several landowners, including Rogan, Allen and Lennox, took advantage of this, subdividing their land into blocks of between one and five acres and selling it to city businessmen who travelled into town daily.

Up until this point, boundaries were defined by the building of dry stone scoria walls. The remnants of several of these walls can be observed during these walks.

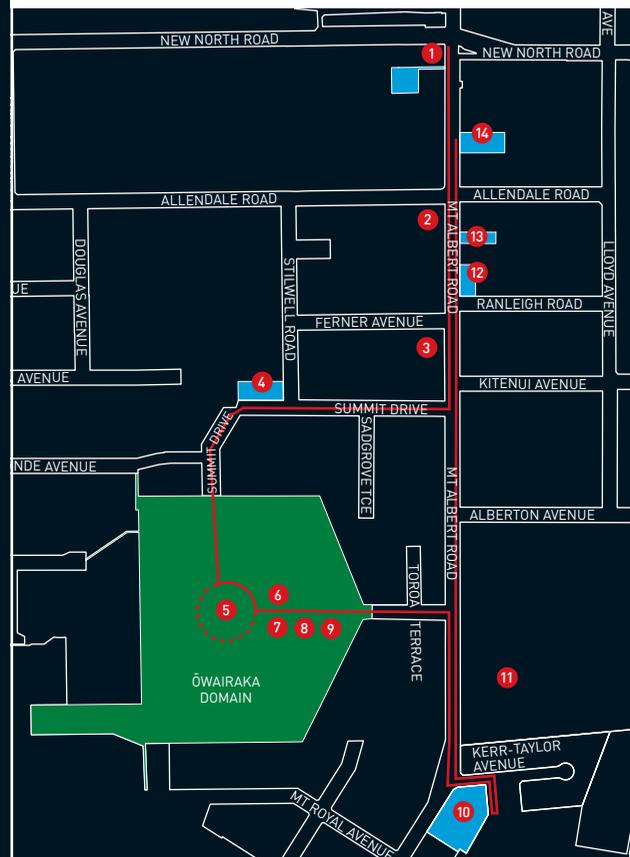
In 1912, the tram arrived at Malvern Road, Morningside and in 1915, the overhead railway bridge was constructed. This allowed the advance of the tramlines into the Mt Albert shopping centre and further encouraged the development of both the commercial and residential areas.

The population of Mt Albert Borough almost doubled in the 1920s. Significant effects of this growth were increased subdivision and the building of many homes in the bungalow style.



# FARMS AND BALLAST PIT WALK

START THE WALK OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE TO NUMBER 1 MT ALBERT ROAD. CONTINUE ALONG MT ALBERT ROAD UNTIL SUMMIT DRIVE.



## FARMS AND BALLAST PIT WALK

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Allendale                   | 8. The Ballast Pit                 |
| 2. Mt Albert Road              | 9. The Destruction of the Mountain |
| 3. Stilwell Road, Summit Drive | 10. Alberton House                 |
| 4. Belmont, 29 Stilwell Road   | 11. Alberton Land                  |
| 5. Ōwairaka                    | 12. 20 Mt Albert Road              |
| 6. The Ballast Line            | 13. 18 Mt Albert Road              |
| 7. The Sadgrove's Farm         | 14. Presbyterian Church            |

## FARMS AND BALLAST PIT WALK →

Although Allan Kerr Taylor was the principal land owner in Mt Albert he was joined in land purchase by other farmers. In the mid 1860s Edward and Elizabeth Allen bought land on the mountain side of Mt Albert Road and the Sadgrove family farmed the northern slopes of Ōwairaka.

Ōwairaka had been quarried by local residents since the 1840s. In 1878 construction of the Auckland to Kaipara railway was underway and it was thought logical that the mountain should be used as a source of scoria. That same year, the Railways Department started working the scoria pit, which was also referred to as the 'quarry' or 'ballast pit'.

Nearly 10 acres of the Mt Albert Domain were made available to the Railways Department for quarrying and approximately 12 acres were left for recreation purposes. Land for the railway feeder line or 'ballast line' was taken by proclamation in 1879.

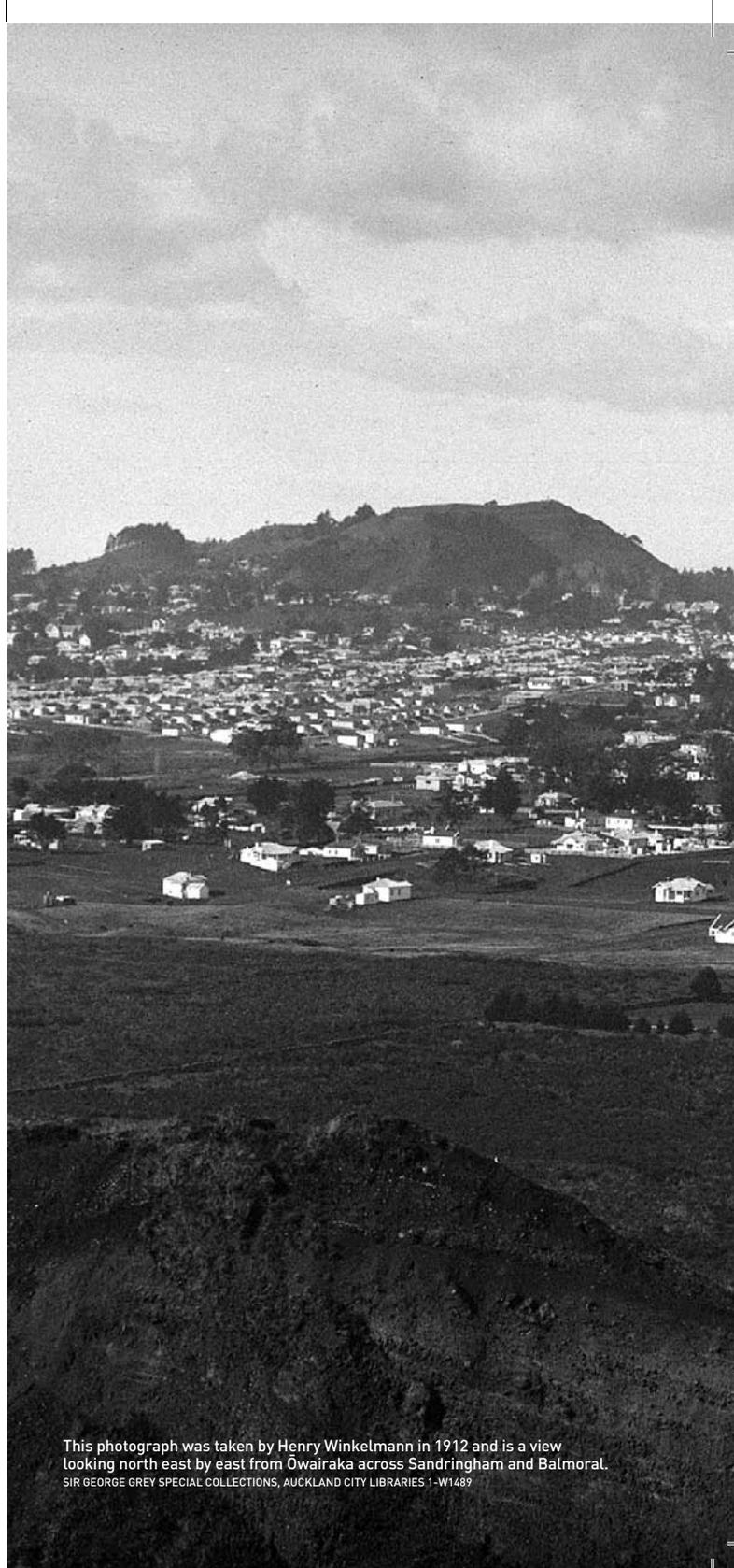
Local residents became increasingly disenchanted with the quarrying, citing destruction of Maori terracing and overall disfigurement of the cone. However, internal government memos at the time noted that Ōwairaka was considered the best source of scoria and that closing the pit should be 'strenuously opposed.'

Eventually, the quarry was closed and the ballast line was finally uplifted in 1928.



Looking north from Ōwairaka showing Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert Grammar School and St Luke's Church. 1926.

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This photograph was taken by Henry Winkelmann in 1912 and is a view looking north east by east from Ōwairaka across Sandringham and Balmoral.

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## FARMS AND BALLAST PIT WALK →

*Start the walk outside the entrance to Number 1 Mt Albert Road.  
Continue along Mt Albert Road until Summit Drive.*

1.



'Allendale'.

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### 1. 'ALLENDALE', 1 MT ALBERT ROAD **B**

This original homestead of Elizabeth and Edward Allen is down the right of way at number one. It is the house where Mt Albert settlers met in 1866 to form the Mt Albert Highways District Board, which established local governance for Mt Albert. The Allen's also hosted the first Methodist sermons in their kitchen the same year.

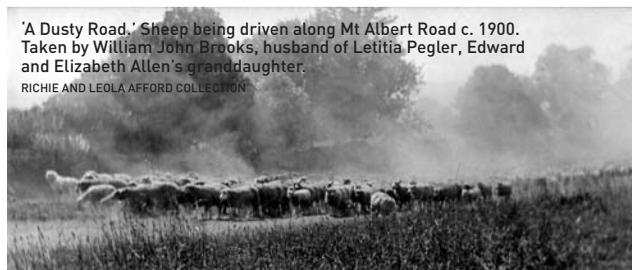
Edward and Elizabeth's son, Thomas, came to New Zealand first. The Allen's subsequently followed Thomas' recommendation and emigrated with their five other children.

Edward and Elizabeth were helped in the establishment of their 99 acre farm by their sons. The land was covered in ferns and rocks that regularly worked their way to the surface. The rocks were manually removed and used in wall building and making roads. The farm extended from the corner of Mt Albert Road and New North Road to Ferner Avenue, south to McLean Street and back along New North Road taking in most of where the shopping centre is now. A stone wall lined farm road divided the Allen's holding in half and ran slightly west of Allendale Road.

### 2. 'A DUSTY ROAD'

The Allens were descended from generations of farmers and created a farm based on traditional, mixed farming methods. Breeding Clydesdale horses and Shropshire sheep was combined with milking cows and growing wheat. The paddocks which opened from either side of the farm road were named in the English style. They were called the 'home paddock', the 'strawberry paddock', the 'garden paddock', the 'ten acre' and the 'corner paddock'.

2



'A Dusty Road.' Sheep being driven along Mt Albert Road c. 1900. Taken by William John Brooks, husband of Letitia Pegler, Edward and Elizabeth Allen's granddaughter.

RICHELLE AND LEOLA AFFORD COLLECTION

Edward and Elizabeth Allen were, from all accounts, disappointed by the development of the ballast line through their 'splendid' property. They were also getting older and decided to subdivide the land into 47 villa sites from ½ acre to nearly three acres. The stone clearances were mentioned as a selling point, providing material for fences, house foundations and 'any other purpose'.

*Walk up Summit Drive.*

### 3. STILWELL ROAD, SUMMIT DRIVE

In 1904 William Winstone transferred some of Lot 99 to the Crown for a public road. This was called Belmont Road, now Stilwell Road. It can be seen running at right angles from Summit Drive, then known as Domain Road. It is a gravelled road with grass verges. A white shell path is clearly visible. Winstone then subdivided his land, which ran down to Mt Albert Road. He created sections with 80 ft frontages because he did not want 'slum areas'. No house was to be erected for less than £500 and Glaister's house, built in 1907, cost £700. This is the large white house in the centre of the photograph which can be seen today at number nine. Its tennis court was at number 7a. Summit Drive contains many fine houses. Among them is the house designed by architect Basil Hooper at number five, Harvey Turner's villa at number 28, the Arts and Crafts house on the corner. Edward and Jessie Sadgrove's house has been demolished.

3

View from Mt Albert. Shows Mt Albert ballast pit line. 1910s. Summit Drive runs horizontally across centre with Stilwell Road running at right angles. Winstone house at far left, Sadgrove house near side centre, Glaister house far side centre. AUCKLAND STAR COLLECTION. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON. G 2817.1/1



#### 4. 'BELMONT', 29 STILWELL ROAD

B

The house was built in 1882 on Symonds Street in two sections and screwed together for easy removal. The Winstone family lived in it there for 14 years. In 1896, William Winstone moved into a new house in Allendale Road but had a site prepared for this home. The house was separated lengthways and moved onto the Stilwell Road site in 1896. It is said to have become the home of his newly married daughter, Annie Stephenson.



'Belmont' prior to restoration in the 1960s.  
AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL

*Enter Mt Albert Domain turning left onto circle road and continuing around to the quarry. Walkers should be aware of cars coming from behind. Agile walkers can take the track along the top of the mountain and enjoy the view from the bench at the end.*

#### 5. ŌWAIRAKA

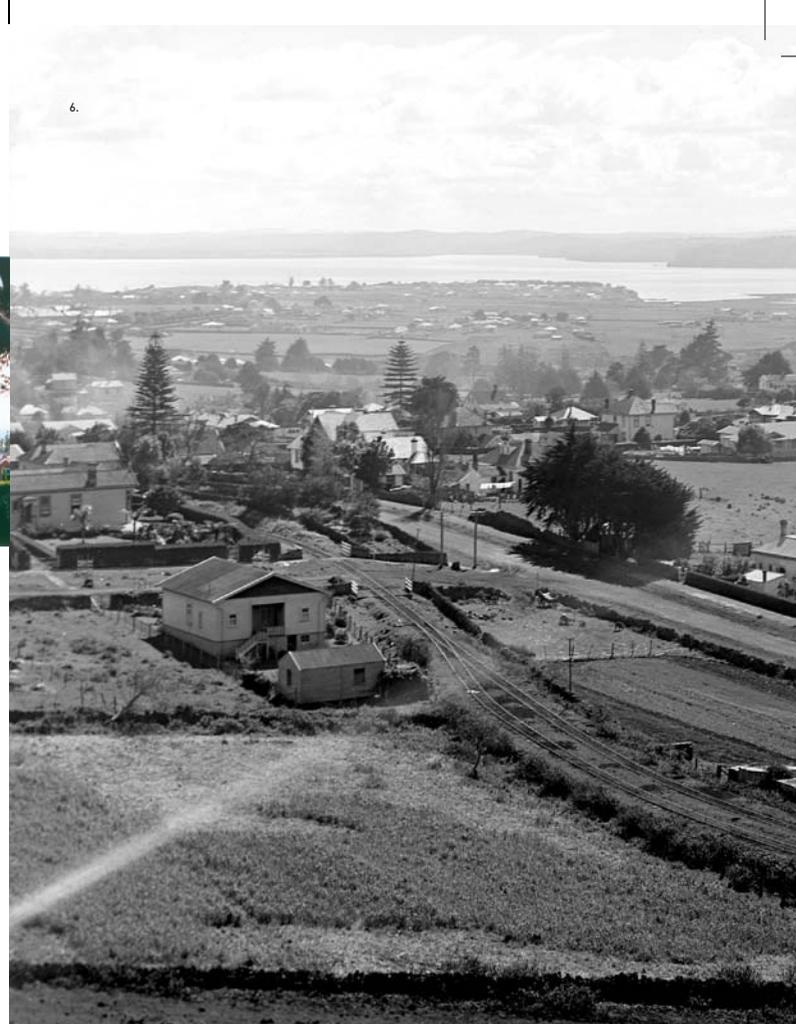
Ōwairaka originally consisted of two craters. One was levelled in the early 1900s to make the playing field, which appears as the central portion of the volcanic cone in this photograph. The other crater was used to form the ARC water reservoir in 1945 (today Water Care Services Ltd). The right hand portion of the cone is a disused reservoir (from the 1920s) and the left hand portion is the ballast pit.

The circle road was constructed by the Mt Albert Borough Council in celebration of the dismantling of the ballast pit and the removal of the plant in 1928. Subsequently, nine acres of quarry land, including the approach from Mt Albert Road to the quarry, were vested in the Domain.

5.



Aerial view of the volcanic cones, Mt Albert, Auckland. 1958.  
WHITES AVIATION COLLECTION. ALEXANDER TURNBALL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND. WA-48 101



Mt Albert Road from Alberton Avenue to Summit Drive 1920. View of the ballast line as it crosses over Sadgrove farm land and Summit Drive which enters from centre left. Mt Albert Road, which is a grass verge lined metalled road, runs diagonally across the page.

SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 4- 4693

#### 6. THE BALLAST LINE

Land for the ballast pit line i.e the railway line running from New North Road to the quarry was taken for railway purposes by proclamation in the NZ Gazette of 1879. The original area taken for the line was 2 acres 3 roods 27 perches. £681/11/03 was paid in compensation. Local farmers, Edward and Elizabeth Allen and Edward and Jessie Sadgrove, surrendered land allowing the ballast line to run across their farms.

When the quarry closed, local residents felt the ballast line land should be given to the council in compensation for the destruction of the mountain. They wanted to turn it into a scenic pathway up the mountain and the Mt Albert Beautifying Society was prepared to plant and maintain the land. However, the government persisted in selling it in a piecemeal fashion over many years.

## FARMS AND BALLAST PIT WALK →

7.



Panorama - looking east from Ōwairaka towards Mt Eden 1920. View from the top of the mountain over Domain land to the Sadgroves farm. SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 4-4689, 4-4685, 4-4697

### 7. THE SADGROVE FARM

In 1865 Edward Sadgrove was offered land by the Government on the northern side of the mountain. He eventually purchased 30 acres for the sum of £800. He married his wife, Jessie Ferguson, in 1878 and they had 11 children. His brother, William Jnr, bought land on the north-east side of mountain. William married Jessie's sister, Sarah, and they had three children with William dying comparatively young.

The Sadgroves owned the land from the boundary line, with the Crown land on the mountain top, along to Summit Drive in one direction and Toroa Terrace in the other. They adapted to the acquisition of their land for the ballast line by doing contracting work.

The Sadgroves also ran a dairy farm, gradually selling it off, leaving pockets of land that were used for grazing cows. The cows were milked in the milking shed on the corner with Alberton Avenue. In the 1930s, many local people came to the shed with their billies and the Sadgroves also delivered milk from large milk cans. Some people remember that the women operated the dairying and the men the carting.

A large area of land was leased from the Kerr Taylors including the land sold to the DSIR for its experimental farm opposite Highland Road. The cows used to be walked along Mt Albert Road for milking.

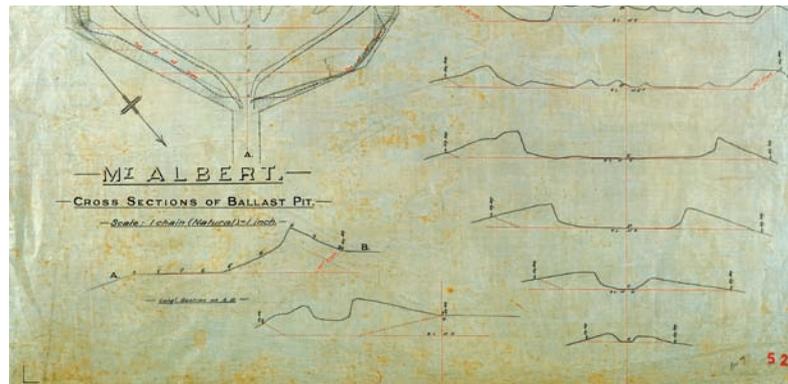
In the photograph above, a Sadgrove house is shown far left at 55 Mt Albert Road. Opposite is Alberton Avenue which is clearly in its initial stage of formation. Further along the road, at number 61, is another Sadgrove house. In the middle of this photograph the scoria shute can be clearly seen. To the right of it are some wagons used for shunting the scoria down to the Mt Albert railway station. The house with the steeply pitched roof belonged to William Sadgrove who was one of the original two brothers who settled here. It stood on the site of number 75 Mt Albert Road. The row of trees advancing diagonally across the page lined 'The Avenue' which was the driveway into the Kerr Taylors home of Alberton.

*Agile walkers can walk down into the quarry before either exiting down Toroa Terrace. Others should continue on the circle road, exiting Summit Drive and continuing along Mt Albert Road towards Alberton House.*

### 8. THE BALLAST PIT

In 1878 the Railways Department started working the gravel pit and continued until the official closure. In 1895 a meeting of ratepayers and residents was held to try and close the pit. William Martin, George Fowlds, Sophia Kerr Taylor, Thomas Allen and Wesley Spraggs were all opponents of the gravel pit continuing. The reasons given were that the mountain was a reserve vested in the Road Board and that the quarry was defacing the mountain. A petition was taken which was subsequently submitted to the House of Representatives. In reply, it was noted that Mt Albert would be able to supply ballast for many years to come and that when it was all removed, the upper part of the hill would be removed and it would once again 'have a symmetrical appearance, and the unsightliness complained of will disappear'.

8.



Cross section of the ballast pit c. 1900.

SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES NZ MAP NUMBER 121

9.



Showing Ōwairaka - Mt Albert with the ballast line leading into the quarry c. 1900-1909.

SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 4- 4693

## 9. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MOUNTAIN

In the government archives is a letter from Mr Harvey Turner, dated April 5th 1916, complaining that 'the force at which the scoria was going when it reached my property caused it to go through some clothes hanging on a line next to the back door'.

The following year a strongly worded resolution was passed by local residents who had gathered at King George's Hall. Mr McLean complained that the Maori trenches, which had influenced the design of those built in World War 1, had been removed. Mr Parr agreed that the relics of Maori warfare should not be demolished. Somewhat frivolously, Miss Melville said the government should continue to remove Mt Smart instead because that had already been irreparably damaged.

In 1916, another petition was taken up by Mary McCracken and in 1919 the Mt Albert Literary and Social Club unanimously passed a motion that said 'Mt Albert residents strongly protest against any further quarrying'. Quarrying stopped suddenly in 1928.

The height of the mountain was reduced from 148 metres to 135 metres and most of the Maori terraces were destroyed. Today, less than half the original land mass remains. The ballast pit was levelled off to make the archery field and in 1961, the inside surfaces of the cone were smoothed off further removing archeological traces.

*Cross at the refuge on Mt Albert Road and go down Kerr Taylor Avenue. Walkers may like to visit Alberton House.*

10.



Alberton House. 1890.

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## 10. ALBERTON HOUSE

## II A

Allan Kerr Taylor was only sixteen years old when he purchased his first block of three hundred acres after arriving from Scotland in 1849. He bought another 232 acres in 1854. In 1860, he married his first life, Martha (Patty) Meredith, while on a visit to England. They returned to New Zealand and the house was built after the birth of their first child in 1863. Patty died in 1864 and Allan remarried, Sophia Louisa Davis, in 1865. Sophia and Allan had six daughters and four sons.

Alberton has been substantially altered, possibly in the 1870s. Its new facade is said to reference Allan Kerr Taylor's birth and childhood in India. Although a ballroom was added, dances were held in the barn, which was constructed in 1877. There were several other outbuildings including a wash house, dairy, fowl house, three outdoor privies, a stable block and a garage. Croquet lawns and a lawn tennis court were on either side of the path in the flat areas.

## 11. ALBERTON LAND

11.



Map showing extent of farm

In 1865 Allan Kerr Taylor sold 96 of the 120 lots offered in his 'Morningside' subdivision. Further subdivisions and sales of land continued to be a good source of income for the Kerr Taylors over the years and Allan was a canny investor in several important companies. He also purchased land at Waimauku. As his income increased, so did his involvement in public affairs. He chaired the first meeting of the Mt Albert Highways District Board in 1867 and other local meetings including the Mount Albert Mutual Improvement Society. He gave land to the Methodist Church, provided land for a new district hall, and gave land to the Anglican Church for the church, parsonage and glebe.

Allan Kerr Taylor died suddenly in 1890. However, Sophia maintained her position as a member of Auckland's social elite. She became active in the suffrage movement and was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Movement and the Franchise League.

*Leave Alberton House, turn right onto Mt Albert Road and walk back to the beginning.*

## 12. 20 MT ALBERT ROAD

12.



This house is believed to have been built for Frank Phillipps, just after the house at number 18 was built for his brother John. John and Frank Phillipps were both active Wesleyan Methodists. Frank Phillipps was among the original trustees of the Mt Albert Methodist Church and there is a pew dedicated to Frank and Mary Phillipps in it. Another pew is dedicated to their daughter, Annie White, and her husband, Arthur. Annie was active in charity work especially on behalf of the Methodist Women's Union and the Auckland Methodist Home and Orphanage. Annie and Arthur's daughter was Lois White, a well known painter. The house was moved closer to Mt Albert Road, re-blocked, re-modelled and re-roofed by the Holt family in the 1930s.

## 13. 18 MT ALBERT ROAD

B

This house was built in the early 1860s for John Phillipps. It was lined with one inch thick cedar which came from packing cases used to transport goods for W Phillipps and Son. The house has fine detailing and 'a general Regency air'.

John and his brother were both present at Allendale on 13 February 1866 for the first meeting of local settlers to recommend the formation of a Highways District Board for Mt Albert. John actively moved 'That a Board be formed in Conformity with the Highways Act'.

The brothers ran the family business successfully until 1911 when Thomas Impey acquired all of the Phillipps interests and the firm became Phillipps and Impey.

The Phillipps maintained an association with this company until 1954, nearly a century after it began. The house and garden were restored by Rich and Leola Afford starting in the 1950s.



13.

The Presbyterian Church being pulled across Mt Albert Road, from the corner of New North Road, to its current position 1922.  
MT ALBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLLECTION



14.

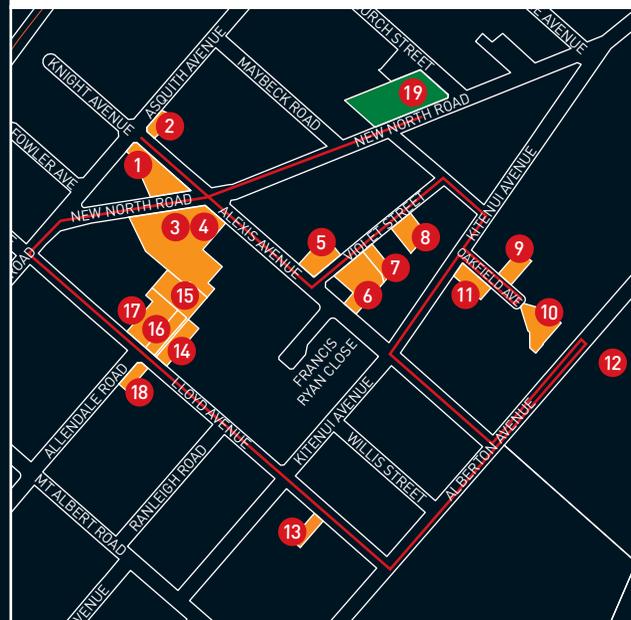
## 14. 14 MT ALBERT ROAD, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Fowlds family sold the piece of land that the church is sitting on for £2,500. During the holiday season (1921 to 1922) the existing church was moved, by a steam roller, across Mt Albert Road to this site. The land had been prepared so that a Sunday school, containing the Maisie Knight Classrooms, could be built below the Sanctuary. The church was extended to its current size in 1928. The Sunday School was further extended by the addition of the Cuthbert Entrican Classrooms in 1933. In the 1940s the church was home to the Mt Albert Presbyterian Men's Club which was open to ex-servicemen and those who carried out essential services at home. In 1950 the 'total youth of the church' including Mt Albert Road, Owairaka, Gladstone and the Cradle Roll was 773. In 1965 the new hall behind the church was completed. The front of the church has been significantly altered over time, with the last change occurring in 1976. The original windows from 1913 were used in this renovation.

# GENTEEL MT ALBERT WALK



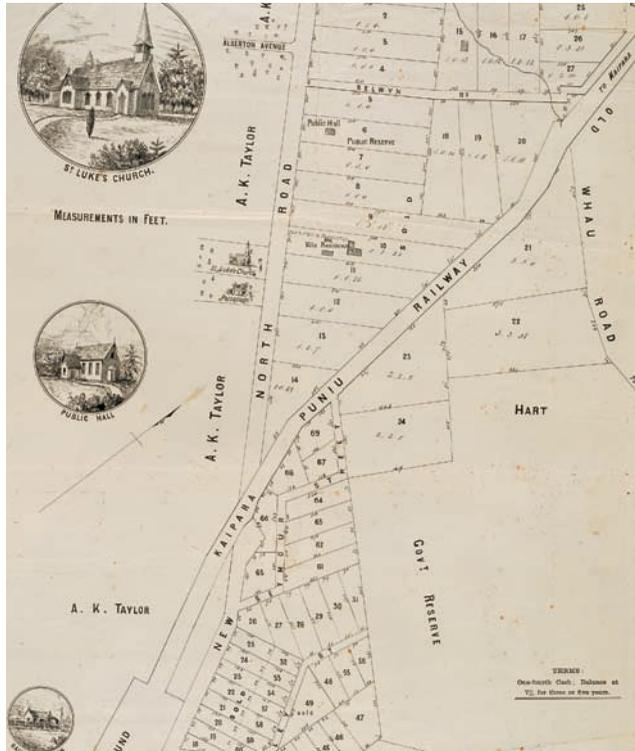
THE WALK STARTS OUTSIDE THE METHODIST CHURCH. WALKERS SHOULD LOOK AT 4 ALEXIS AVENUE BEFORE CROSSING NEW NORTH ROAD AT THE REFUGE NEXT TO THE BUS STOP.



### GENTEEL MT ALBERT WALK

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mt Albert Methodist Church                            | 10. 9 Oakfield Avenue, 'Oakfield' |
| 2. Stoneleigh  | 11. Wallett House                 |
| 3. Ferndale  | 12. Mt Albert Grammar School      |
| 4. West from Alexis Avenue                               | 13. Penmans house                 |
| 5. 20 Alexis Avenue, Coles House, stone garage and walls | 14. 52 Lloyd Avenue               |
| 6. 12 Violet Street                                      | 15. Mt Albert Croquet Club        |
| 7. 10 Violet Street                                      | 16/17. 46 & 48 Lloyd Avenue       |
| 8. 4 Violet Street                                       | 18. Lyndhurst                     |
| 9. 2 Oakfield Avenue                                     | 19. The Alice Wylie Reserve       |

## GENTEEL MT ALBERT WALK →



Morningside villa sites and allotments - for sale by auction. Possibly 1882.  
SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES. NZ MAP NUMBER 4497-7

Many of the new settlers who bought land from Allan Kerr Taylor were from non-conformist religions. Several were Wesleyan Methodists and there were also some Baptists but they all shared religious fervour. Sobriety, respectability, moral and spiritual growth were considered desirable qualities. The non-conformists were happy to worship at each other's churches and an interdenominational understanding was accepted. The Methodist Church, established in 1866, came to provide a strong sense of community for settlers by giving a physical point of reference and providing a sense of belonging.

The properties on this walk include homes of the first 'Non-conformists', early settler cottages that have been gentrified, Edwardian villas, Arts and Crafts homes and bungalows built for the more affluent. One older resident noted that when he was growing up there were 25 tennis courts within walking distance of his home in Lloyd Avenue. Some of these have been noted on the walk.

Mt Albert Grammar School has been an integral part of the community since 1922 and many of the early masters lived locally. Some of their residences have been noted on the walk.

1.



Looking at the church from Asquith Avenue. The old church has been moved to allow the new church to face New North Road. C1900.  
SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 7- A1145

## 1. 831 NEW NORTH ROAD, MT ALBERT METHODIST CHURCH II B

Allan Kerr Taylor donated the land, which was part of Lot 40, for the Methodist Church. The conveyance lists the names of Edward Allen, William Kemp, Thomas Allen, Frank Phillipps, John Phillipps, John Clark, Richard Monk and Henry White.

The first church was built in 1866. In 1882 the building was moved to the back of the church land to function as a Sunday school. Later that year, the new church was opened. The old church was later extended by a transept, a bible classroom and four other classrooms. In 1910 a new infant school was added to the back of the Sunday school building. It was designed by local architect, Arthur White.

In 1928 there was a major extension of the new church, when transepts and an organ loft were added. The existing church was cut at the vestry end and north west wall and the vestries and buttresses were moved. The church and the Sunday school were joined together by a small porch. Many other alterations have since been made and more renovations are currently being planned.

2.



'Stoneleigh'.  
SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 7-A15255

## 2. 4 ALEXIS AVENUE, 'STONELEIGH,' 'HILFONT', 'EPWORTH'

II B

Charles Burrell Stone lived here with his second wife, Ellen Page, and the house was probably built for them. Charles Stone is reputed to have been the first European boy born in Auckland and his birth was certified by John Logan Campbell. Charles and Ellen lived at this address from 1878 until 1882. Annie Louise Lindsay, a daughter from Stones' first marriage, recalled spending part of her childhood there. She remembered that the house, which was originally called 'Stoneleigh', was surrounded by an orange grove. It was on a three-acre section with the original driveway leading from New North Road.

Charles had the largest shipping business in Auckland before selling it in 1893. He then operated as a mining and land agent in Queen Street. He was active in local politics and was a member of both the Auckland Harbour Board and the Mt Albert Road Board. Stoneleigh was sold to John William James in 1882 and its name changed to 'Hilfont'.

In 1922 the house was purchased as an extension to the Wesley Home and called 'Epworth' after the birthplace of Wesleyan Methodism. Local church people including the Winstones, Fowlds, Astleys and the Caughys, donated goods and money. A United Protestant Orphan's Appeal yielded £1,530 and made the purchase of the house possible. When Epworth opened it had spaces for 27 children. Epworth closed in 1936 and the children moved to other Methodist homes.

*Walk along Alexis Avenue past Ferndale House.*

3.



'Ferndale', 1912.  
SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 7-A3050

## 3. 830 NEW NORTH ROAD, 'FERNDALE'

II B

The land this house was built on was part of Allan Kerr Taylor's 1865 subdivision. Jonathan Tonson Garlick bought 1½ acres initially, another one acre the next year and later on in 1870, a further 6½ acres.

A cottage was built for Jonathan and his young bride, Anne Elizabeth Jane Garlick, nee Houghton. This young couple had met through the Baptist Church and married in 1865. They immediately moved into their new home which they named 'Fern Villa.' This small house was oriented towards New North Road and can be still recognised in the building today. A series of Norfolk Island pines was planted down the front path by the teenage bride - today they are known as 'the Seven Sisters'.

'Fern Villa' was then developed into 'Ferndale' and there were probably two extensions. The second one re-orientated the house from the north-east to the south-east and mounted the new entrance with a barrel vaulted portico and a wide verandah which led into a large hallway. Two large reception rooms were added, which could become one larger space by opening kauri doors. Ferndale increasingly became the centre for community activities and, in 1883, The Mt Albert Mutual Improvement Society was formed. Evenings were set aside for music, elocution, essays, debates, prepared speeches, extempore speeches, readings, recitations and lectures.

4.



Looking west from Alexis Avenue across New North Road towards Asquith Avenue with Ferndale on the left, Methodist Church and Stoneleigh ahead c. 1900-1909.

SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 7-A11261

#### 4. WEST FROM ALEXIS AVENUE

Jonathan Garlick made a lot of money as an accountant, insurance agent, land agent and share broker. He also ran a successful furnishing business, Tonson Garlick Coy Ltd, and took his three sons as partners. Jonathan was involved in the building and running of the Methodist Church and was the instigator of the Mt Albert Abstinence Society, which successfully kept licensed premises out of the area.

In 1945 a group of citizens suggested that Mt Albert Borough Council should buy Ferndale after Anne Garlick's death, and negotiations were completed in 1946. For the next 30 years, Ferndale was used by several community groups including the Mt Albert Kindergarten and the Plunket Society. In 1984 the kindergarten moved out and a great deal of renovations were completed. Ferndale House became available for public hire in 1988.

The Ferndale Tennis Club courts were sited where the brick 1950s houses are today. A bowling club was also established on the estate. Another tennis court occupied the site of the new house at number 13 which was in front of the Atkinson's bungalow.

5.



#### 5. 20 ALEXIS AVENUE, COLES HOUSE, STONE GARAGE AND WALLS

B

In 1896, the villa at number 20 was built on a much larger property by Noah Wood. However, this was not the first house on the site - the original cottage is thought to have burnt down.

The stone garage is believed to have been the stables for the first dwelling. The door facing into the property was originally a typical stable door with the top portion swinging open. The loft behind the recently added dormer window was used for storing hay and there was a stone water cistern joined to the driveway end of the building.

The stone walls are believed to be the same age as the stone garage and they were once higher than they are now. In the 1930s, Charles Willis Coles, who purchased the property from Noah Wood in 1923, took one stone's width from along the top and concreted it over.

During World War II, 20 Alexis Avenue was used as the headquarters for the Mt Albert Home Guard Battalion. Charles Coles was appointed Battalion Commander with the rank of Major. He also gave the use of one of the rooms in the house over to the Battalion Adjutant, Sergeant Major and Quartermaster. The stone garage became the Quartermaster's stores where uniforms were issued and rifles, hand grenades and other military paraphernalia (none of it live) were stored. The loft became the pigeon loft for the Army's carrier pigeons.

The land was subsequently subdivided in the 1950s and 1970s by the Coles and Turner families.

#### Turn left into Violet Street

Violet Street may have been named for one of Charles Stone's coastal shipping vessels. However, it may also have been named after Violet Kerr Taylor, daughter of Allan Kerr Taylor. Yet another version says that it was named 'Violet' after the wife of Arthur Jenkin who built number four, the first house in the street. There are a mixture of bungalow styles including mock tudor with 'strapping' that emulates beams and also some made from solid brick with a stucco finish. There are also some grand villas alongside the more modest ones.

## 6. 12 VIOLET STREET

James Cuthbertson Entrican built this imposing home. He was married twice, to Elizabeth Mary Fergusson, who died in 1910 and then to Annie Sofia Myer whom he married in 1914. The house was bounded by Kitenui Avenue at the front, Alexis Avenue along the side and Violet Street at its rear. A remnant of its glazed earthenware wall can be seen between number 12 and number 14 Violet Street.

James was a devout Presbyterian who donated the land for the local Presbyterian Church that was built in 1912 on the corner of Mt Albert and New North roads. He was a keen numismatist (coin collector), philatelist (stamp collector) and book collector. His extensive library was between the side of the house and the Violet Street boundary. In 1936, he offered the Mt Albert Grammar School Senior English class the choice of a book each. They were bemused to discover they were all religious texts.

## 7. 10 VIOLET STREET

This house was built for Des Mann in 1960 on land subdivided from number 12. It was designed by Ivan Juriss of Group Architects and is an example of the local modernist architecture style of the 1950s and 1960s. The home was built to echo the slope of the site in its changes in floor levels and roof lines and was made of unpainted concrete block, which was considered eccentric in 1960.

## 8. 4 VIOLET STREET

This house was built by a local builder, Arthur Jenkin. Arthur built the Mt Albert Presbyterian Church in 1912 on land which was donated by his neighbor, James Entrican. The Jenkins property originally stretched through to Kitenui Avenue. Arthur and Violet's daughter, Doris, was a well respected local teacher. Around 1933 she moved the school she was running at the King George's Hall to Violet Street. Arthur built school rooms by adding three rooms to a large builder's storage shed. The school was called St Francis School and had a roll of about 36 pupils. The school was mostly attended by girls although some boys also went there. The children belonged to many well known Mt Albert families - Astley, Caughey, Coles, Impey, Lambourne and Woodward. Jack Jenkin taught technical subjects, art and was a careers adviser at Mt Albert Grammar School. He began teaching there in 1930 and retired in 1965.



4 Violet Street.  
Jenkin house.  
St Francis School  
on premises  
in 1936.  
ARNOLD AND MARJORIE  
TURNER COLLECTION

*Continue walking down Violet Street, turn right into Bennett Street, right again into Kitenui Avenue and left into Oakfield Avenue.*

Bennett Street was originally called Albert Street but in 1938 was re-named after Alfred Ferdinand Bennett, Mayor of Mt Albert. In 1938, Kitenui Avenue's name was changed from Mountain Road.

## 9. 2 OAKFIELD AVENUE

Walking along Oakfield Avenue, you will pass number two which was built for the Lambourne family. This house was designed by architect Basil Hooper, built in the style of his Tudor influenced Timaru bungalows, with half timbered gable ends and a brick and timber arched entrance.

## 10. 9 OAKFIELD AVENUE, 'OAKFIELD' II B

This house started life as a small cottage built by James Ward in the early 1870s. It was bought by Frederick Battley in 1880 who transformed it into a grand home consisting of two storeys at the front and one at the back. Later, he added another floor at the back of the house, making both parts of the house two storeys high. Battley held many senior positions in the Baptist Church and was General Manager for the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company Ltd.

'Oakfield' is a Georgian influenced, Italianate villa. The Italianate quality derives from the use of a balcony over the entrance, which links the two verandahs going across the front of the house. The balcony was always referred to as the 'Romeo' by subsequent owners. The Georgian influences are the symmetrical design, medium pitch roof, close eaves and large sash windows.

Frank William Gamble, first headmaster of Mt Albert Grammar School, lived here from 1922 until 1949.

*Walk back along Oakfield Avenue and turn left onto Kitenui Avenue. Walk along Kitenui Avenue turning left into Alexis Avenue and right into Alberton Avenue in order to view Mt Albert Grammar School.*

10.



Oakfield.  
AUCKLAND ART GALLERY. TOI O TAMAKI, GIFT OF  
JOHN STACPOOLE AND JOHN FIELDS, 1983

## GENTEEL MT ALBERT WALK →

11.



Wallett House, built 1924.  
© 2010 - SAIT AKKIRMAN

### 11. 40 KITENUI AVENUE, WALLETT HOUSE

This house was designed by Basil Hooper for the Wallett family. Hooper was one of the most influential New Zealand architects in the design of pre-Californian bungalows. In 1923 he moved his family from Dunedin to Auckland where he re-established his architectural career. This house is typical of Hooper's Auckland bungalows, which were characterised by horizontal weatherboarding with some vertical board and batten, in this case in the gable ends.

The porch is typical of the care that Hooper gave his entrances. It has a yoked arch, interesting timber brackets and paired verandah posts. He reduced the entry to human scale by using a low, stepped roof. The diamond paned windows are hung quite low also adding to the inviting appearance. J L D Woolloxall, Mt Albert Grammar School's Head of Science for twenty five years, lived here.

At number 31 Kitenui Avenue, is the original Entrican entrance way. The glazed earthenware wall on either side of this section circled the property and joins up with the wall noted in Violet Street.

### 12. MT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL II B

Mt Albert Grammar School was built in 1921 on a portion of the Kerr Taylor estate. The site sloped from south to north as it fell away to Meola Creek and so a great deal of earth movement resulting in the construction of terraces was undertaken. Trees that had formed part of Kerr Taylors 'Avenue' were cleared. The school was built in grey rough cast and initially had a forbidding appearance. In 1926 the hall was opened and provided a place for assemblies, mass singing, and dramatic and musical performances.

In its early years there was an emphasis on academic study. This was complemented by a focus on music as well as inter-secondary sports competitions.

In 1932 the Auckland Savings Trust Board enabled 20 acres of the Kerr Taylor estate to be bought for a school farm with some equipment.

12.



Mt Albert Grammar School, showing the sloping site being converted to terraces.  
C.1926. SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 1-W603

An agriculture course, which combined practical activity (breaking in the land and running stock) and classroom studies, was introduced. The school farm is still in operation and can be accessed by the drive opposite the end of Alexis Avenue.

*Retrace steps back along Lloyd Avenue until reaching the end. Walkers can turn right into New North Road and finish the walk at the Alice Wylie Reserve or where they began.*

### 13. 65 LLOYD AVENUE, PENMAN HOUSE

The land for this house was bought by Ross Penman before he went away to fight in World War I. When he returned with his war bride, Minnie (Mrs Ross), he began building the house using rimu and matai boards. The house gradually evolved and was finally completed in the mid 1920s. When the land was further subdivided, Ross bought the section at number 67 and installed the tennis court, sealing it in 1926. This is one of the few private tennis courts left in Mt Albert.



*Look down Kitenui Avenue before crossing to see the entrance to Arthur and Eva Page's property at number 49. Page's land occupied around three acres and some of the original stone wall, running in front of the old tennis court and summerhouse site, can be seen outside number 45. Houses were built on the Page's land following its subdivision in the late 1920's. They were built on neighbouring land before 1915.*

## 14. 52 LLOYD AVENUE

This house was lived in by one of Mt Albert's mayors, Alfred Bennett, his wife, Clorinne, and their five children. It can be seen in the back left of the Croquet Club photograph.

15.



Presidents Day, 1926.  
MT ALBERT CROQUET CLUB COLLECTION

## 15. MT ALBERT CROQUET CLUB

The Croquet Club originally used the lawns at the Bowling Club in Allendale Road but growth in membership meant that sharing the lawns became difficult. In 1921, the President of the Bowling Club suggested that the land offered by the Garlicks for the sum of £600 was 'very suitable' for new croquet lawns. An agreement was reached between Mrs Garlick and the Croquet Club. The ladies organised the levelling of the new lawns, removal of rocks and re-grassing. Drainage and water were attended to and the new Croquet Club opened here in 1925.

The Croquet Club contributed actively to local social life. Club Days were held every Wednesday and Saturday. There were 'At Home' days held when invitations were sent to 'sister' clubs, and also given to ladies that members chose to invite and to ladies generally residing in the district. Other events included card afternoons and evenings, jumble sales, 'gift or coin' afternoons, evening dances at local halls, inter-club Croquet days and an annual Spring Fair.

The Mt Albert Croquet Club is now privately owned but people are welcome to walk down the driveway to view the lawns and to watch any games being played.

## 16/17. 46 AND 48 LLOYD AVENUE

In 1918, Tonson Garlick built the large dark brown house seen in the middle of the Croquet Club photo. In the 1930s, the side portion was cut off and moved onto the subdivided section at number 48 thereby creating these two homes. The relationship between the houses can be seen in the low hanging shingled awnings, partly obscuring the fanlights, on both buildings.

18.

AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL



## 18. 'LYNDHURST', CLAY HOUSE, CNR LLOYD AVENUE AND ALLENDALE ROAD B

Land agent, Thomas Benjamin (Toby) Clay and Sarah Clay (nee Siddell) bought four acres of land down from Mt Albert Road and bounded by Allendale Road and Mary's Lane (Lloyd Avenue). They had this grand, strongly detailed two storey house designed in 1905. The family, including four sons and two daughters, moved into it in 1908.

The house had three large living rooms, a billiard room, five bedrooms and two verandahs on each floor. It was notable for the expensive, imported materials used in its construction. The lower verandahs were decorated with Italian tiles, ornate ceilings were prefabricated in sections and Marseilles roof tiles were used.

Outside the house was an extensive garden with cycads, a rockery, an orchard and paddocks for the horses and a cow. There were also stables and a lawn tennis court.

Toby was involved in local politics and was Mayor of Mt Albert from 1917 – 1921. Sarah organised patriotic collections for the war effort and worked untiringly amongst local residents during the influenza epidemic after the war.

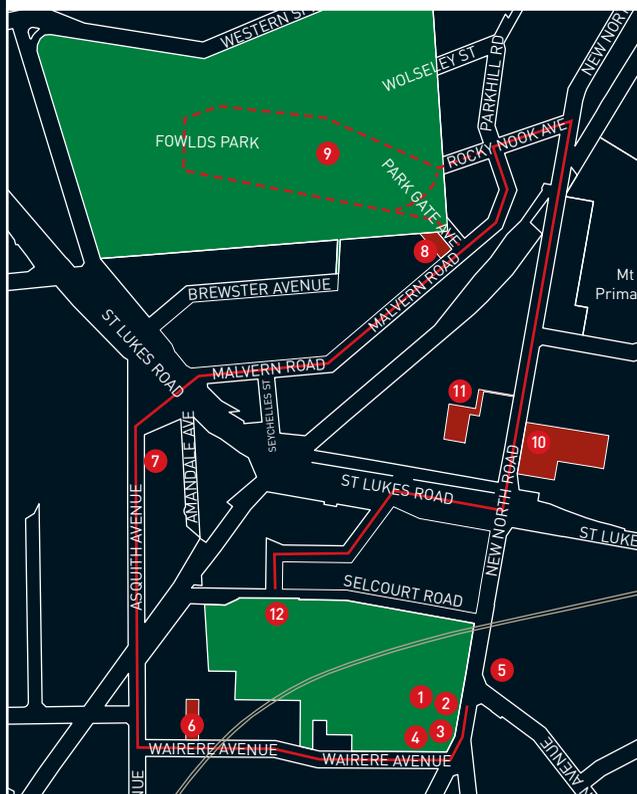
## 19. ALICE WYLIE RESERVE

This was originally the site of a substantial residence probably built in the 1880s for a solicitor named Alexander. Subsequently, the house was owned by the Wilks family and then the Crown, who used it for the Auckland Industrial School. In 1927 Mt Albert Grammar School bought the building for a hostel known as School House. The building was demolished in 1972 and the reserve was re-named Alice Wylie Reserve after the local deputy mayor.

# THE PEOPLE'S WALK



THE WALK STARTS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. THE BAPTIST CHURCH CAN BE VIEWED FROM ROCKET PARK. THE WALK CONTINUES ALONG WAIRERE AVENUE AND RIGHT ONTO ASQUITH AVENUE.



## THE PEOPLE'S WALK

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Recreation Hall/Community Centre | 7. Asquith Avenue lava flow        |
| 2. War Memorial Hall                | 8. Forbes Eadie house              |
| 3. Rocket Park                      | 9. Fowlds Park                     |
| 4. Senior Citizens Rooms            | 10. St Lukes Church                |
| 5. Mt Albert Baptist Church         | 11. The Rocks                      |
| 6. Mealing House                    | 12. Community Centre Tennis Courts |

In 1926, the census showed that Mt Albert's population had gone from 11,000 to 17,000 in five years. This increase equaled that of the whole of Auckland, including its outer areas. One and a half houses were being completed every six day working week. This was the fastest rate of building in New Zealand and Wairere Avenue, Malvern Road and Jesmond Terrace exemplify this rate of expansion.

Also in 1926, Mt Albert raised a loan for the sum of £749,000 which was to be spent on roading, drainage, reserves, public toilets and municipal offices. In 1930 Mt Albert's population passed the 20,000 mark, making it the largest borough in New Zealand. Later on, during the depression, expenditure was halted and the borough's loans were converted to a 34-year term. However, by 1936 the country was well on its way to recovery and financial restrictions were relaxed.

## 1. RECREATION HALL/COMMUNITY CENTRE

The recreation hall was opened by the Governor-General, Sir Bernard Fergusson, on 27 March 1965. Frank Turner, Mayor of Mt Albert, said it was the first time a municipality had built a recreation hall. He mentioned there were future plans for an eight-acre Civic Centre reserve including an Olympic swimming pool! The recreation hall was built with money from the Mt Albert Gymnasium Club, Lions Club, Golden Kiwi, with the balance from the council. The main facility was called the Frank Turner Stadium after the mayor. In 2002 the Mt Albert Community Centre was added and the two organisations have become known as the Mt Albert Community and Recreation Centre.

## 2. WAR MEMORIAL HALL

This impressive building was opened on 29 July 1961 by the Hon. John Rae MP. It is dedicated 'to those who gave their lives in service of their country'. The hall was designed by architects Wilson Moodie and Gillespie, in the shape of a reverse hyperbolic paraboloid. It had a three-tiered floor, which was designed for concert use and playing bowls. In 1994, the hall was used for community functions, meetings, shows and exhibitions. In 1995, in order to increase the number of users, two tiers were removed to provide one flat area for social functions.

2.



War Memorial Hall under construction March 1961.

SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 255A-71

3.



Rocket Park 1, 1992.  
NOEL BOW COLLECTION

### 3. ROCKET PARK

The first Rocket Park was built by the Mt Albert Lions Club and opened in 1967. It featured space themed play equipment. There was a satellite shaped roundabout and a rocket climbing frame. Generations of local children disappeared up into the rocket, often becoming stuck there or merely taunting their parents with their inaccessibility. Subsequently, the entrance into the rocket has been sealed off. Rocket Park was upgraded in the early 1990s and Rocket Park 3 opened on 6 May 2001.

### 4. SENIOR CITIZENS ROOMS

The Senior Citizens Rooms were completed with 3,000 hours of voluntary work contributed by the Lions Club and opened in 1977. The Mt Albert City Council contributed the land, water and waste connections, the Lions Club fundraised \$15,000, and \$50,000 was contributed by the Welfare of Aged Persons Distribution Committee. The rooms were designed by John Cooper and included a meeting hall, bowling mats, a reading room, kitchen and toilets.

4.



Lions Club members building Senior Citizens Rooms, 1977.  
NOEL BOW COLLECTION

5.



'Third' Church, 1921.  
PENMAN COLLECTION

### 5. MT ALBERT BAPTIST CHURCH

The first meeting to discuss beginning Baptist work in Mt Albert was held at James Penman's home, 'The Rocks,' in 1913. James' son, Ross, and Harvey Turner conceived the idea of a fellowship in Mt Albert. The site was bought from a Mr Rowles for the sum of £78. The land ran from St Lukes Road to Alberton Avenue with its frontage being along New North Road.

The first church was built later in 1913. James and Ross, both expert builders, put in two hours of labour every morning before breakfast and also in the evening after dark. Voluntary workers also helped and the church was finished five weeks after it was started. The church was turned around and enlarged in 1915 and, then in 1921, when it became known as the 'third' church.

The new brick church was built in 1953 by the firm of J. A Penman and Son with James laying the foundation stone, aged 88.

Building new church with James Penman and Rev. G. Clifford Reay laying foundation stone 1953.  
PENMAN COLLECTION



Wairere Avenue was slowly developed from the turn of the century until the end of the 1920s. Therefore, the houses are built in villa, transitional villa and bungalow styles. Generally, these homes are more modest than those in the previous walk.

## THE PEOPLE'S WALK →

6.



Mealing family on front verandah 1930s. BRENT MEALING COLLECTION

### 6. 25 WAIRERE AVENUE, MEALING HOUSE

John Cyril Mealing, bought this land on 1 July 1919. The house was built in 1920 with John, a cabinet maker, doing some of the internal finishing and possibly helping with the exterior. John and Jessie May Mealing moved into this house with their three children, Phyllis, Cyril and Keith in 1920. At this time, Wairere Avenue was just a country road with a rough metalled centre and grass verges. The even numbered side had a footpath but the 'odd' side had only a track flattened by people walking along it. Meola Stream had not yet been covered over and diverted and came under New North Road to Wairere Avenue before running along the side of the road and veering across country to Asquith Avenue.

This house is a typical bungalow. It has front gables and a comparatively large amount of shingling. The 1930s photo shows the shingles painted a dark contrasting colour. In the inter-war period, green painted shingles on a white or cream house was standard because of the limited availability of other colours. Phyllis Mealing lived in this house until 2008.

Mealing family on back lawn 1954. BRENT MEALING COLLECTION

6.



7.



### 7. ASQUITH AVENUE CUTTING

Asquith Avenue was once the main route north. This route followed Great North Road along Western Springs Road and then passed down through Asquith Avenue, which was in part carved out of solid rock.

Asquith Avenue was locally referred to as the 'chain gang' road. This is because it was built by defaulters from an Irish regiment who were in trouble with the British Army over discipline or for sympathizing with Maori. The Irish soldiers had to cut through a fold in the lava that crossed the line of the road. The cutting that you can see was originally only one cart wide and about eight metres high. Clearly, the soldiers were being punished as it was common practice for roads to follow ridges rather than cut through them.

The 'chain gang' road provided access and enabled the subdivision of Allan Kerr Taylors 'Morningside' in 1865 and Albert Park shortly afterwards. In the 1920s Asquith Avenue was widened by council workers.

*Enter top of Amandale Avenue and follow path over St Lukes Road using the crossing. Continue following the path down into Malvern Road, turning right. Walk around to Rocky Nook Avenue. Walkers can turn left into Rocky Nook Avenue and follow circular path around Fowlds Park, returning to entrance point.*

The houses in Malvern Road were built between 1915 and 1920 and exhibit many features of the transitional villas commonly built in this time. These houses are still villa in plan but have a much simpler appearance. The centre valley roof style has been replaced with a pyramid roof, which sweeps down low at the front covering the verandah. Verandah decoration has been severely reduced and in these homes wooden lace has been replaced with flat arches. Several of these houses have flat wooden balustrades with stenciled Arts and Crafts cut outs, rather than the turned wooden balustrades of traditional villas.

There is evidence of speculative building. Identical bargeboard detailing at numbers 26, 24 and 14 and the curious walled in arches at numbers 37, 29, 18 and 5 provide clues to this.

9.



8.



## 8. 13 MALVERN ROAD, FORBES EADIE HOUSE

In 1921, the New Zealand Herald ran a feature story about the Morningside Dump. Comments included 'Potential Danger Spot', 'Rubbish Tip and Rats', 'Revolted Conditions.' One of the contributors, along with George Fowlds, was Forbes Eadie who lived at 13 Malvern Road. Other local residents also complained about the rats, flies, rotting refuse and the smell of the dump. These complaints set off an enquiry into the state of Auckland's rubbish tips.

The following year, Eadie complained that the typhoid epidemic was caused by the poor sanitation at the dump. Recriminations were exchanged between Eadie, his lawyer, Alfred Bennett (the Mayor) and CJ Parr (MP for Mt Eden). Comments between Eadie and Parr became increasingly personalised in the general election in the following November. Parr, who was Minister for Health, was re-elected while Eadie's career resurfaced under the journalistic pseudonym 'Lee Fore Brace.'

A passenger and goods train has just crossed Morningside railway bridge. Californian bungalows and tennis courts are in Fowlds Park in foreground. May, 1936.  
HUGH BENNETT, GRAHAM STEWART COLLECTION

## 9. FOWLDS PARK

In 1912, this land was brought under the control of the Mt Albert Domain Board. It was named the Morningside Reserve and used as a dump, quarry, recreation ground and for leased grazing.

In the 1920s and early 1930s there were 800 relief workers in the Mt Albert Borough. Between 250 to 300 men drained the Wesley Swamp and cleared rock, levelling land in Fowlds Park, Gribblehirst Park and Edendale School. Prior to its development in 1932, Fowlds Park was a vast rock strewn area overgrown with gorse and blackberries. In 1935, the reserve was renamed after Sir George Fowlds in recognition of his public works and for securing this land for a park.

Early uses of the new park included rugby, hockey, tennis and croquet. Today there are three playing fields and the Rocky Nook Bowling Club has taken over the area where there used to be tennis courts and croquet greens. There are many mature native and exotic trees. The stand of gums trees adjacent to Western Springs Road is considered worthy of protection.

*Walk along to New North Road turning right onto it.*

## 10. ST LUKES CHURCH

II A

In 1872 there were around 16 families living within a mile and a quarter of Allan Kerr Taylor's gate and Reverend B T Dudley estimated that about 25 families were available to attend a new church.

A public meeting was held on 26 March 1872 where Allan Kerr Taylor repeated his offer of land for both the church and the burial grounds. He also offered a sum of money towards the cost of the building. When an additional £150 had been raised, tenders were called for the building of the church.

10.



Showing St Lukes Church (left) and Church Hall (right) taken in 1928.  
SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES 4-4935 CHURCH FROM FRONT

On 10 July, the first meeting was held in the new church which was dedicated on 29 September 1872. In 1883 the church was enlarged and consecrated by Bishop Cowie. Extra wagons for passengers attending this service were added to the train from Auckland. The train left Auckland on time carrying 30 ladies and gentlemen. Many of the latter were clergymen who expected to take part in the service. Following several delays, the train finally arrived having taken the same length of time as that of an average walker.

The church was described as 'an edifice of gothic design', situated on a rising knoll of ground some distance away from the railway station and surrounded by pine trees.' The original building has been seamlessly enlarged by the addition of a transept, a chancel, an apse and a vestry.

*Walkers should continue down New North Road, cross over at the New North Road lights, proceed right along St Lukes Road and walk down Jesmond Terrace. This route will take them back to the community centre after passing the tennis court.*

11.



'The Rocks' 1908.  
PENMAN COLLECTION

### 11. 707 NEW NORTH ROAD, 'THE ROCKS'

This house was built by James Arthur Penman in 1886, and he took his bride, Maria Ross, to live there. Originally, New North Road turned down what is now 'The Rocks' drive to avoid a solid peak of rock which blocked the way. A large amount of effort was put into straightening New North Road, which was reformed, going closer to St Lukes Church. Thus, 'The Rocks' was given a large, rock strewn front paddock of another acre. Maria's father, a farmer, came to visit and was dismayed at the sight of the boulders. On his return home, he addressed a letter to his daughter simply as 'Mrs J A Penman, 'The Rocks', Mt Albert.' The letter was delivered and the house got its name. The house was enlarged twice to suit the growing family and for entertaining. The first house was a small bay villa. In 1903, it was drastically remodelled with the original bay being incorporated into the front verandah, which then had large bays added to either end. In 1926 the house was further enlarged. The grounds were laid out pleasantly and a tennis court built. Two more tennis courts were later built at 'The Rocks' and became known as the Baptist Tennis Courts.

Jesmond Terrace was largely built in the mid to late 1920s, about one decade after the houses in Malvern Street.

### 12. COMMUNITY CENTRE TENNIS COURTS, EDWARD AND MAUDE TURNERS HOUSE

A large villa occupied the tennis court site facing what was then known as Selwyn Road. It was built by Edward and Maude Turner, who had three acres of land. They moved into their new home on 9 September 1909. Edward was one of the original Borough Councillors in 1911. This photo shows their son, Ebenezer, and his wife, Margaret Woodward, standing on the verandah of the Turner's house with their wedding party.



ARNOLD AND MARJORIE  
TURNER COLLECTION

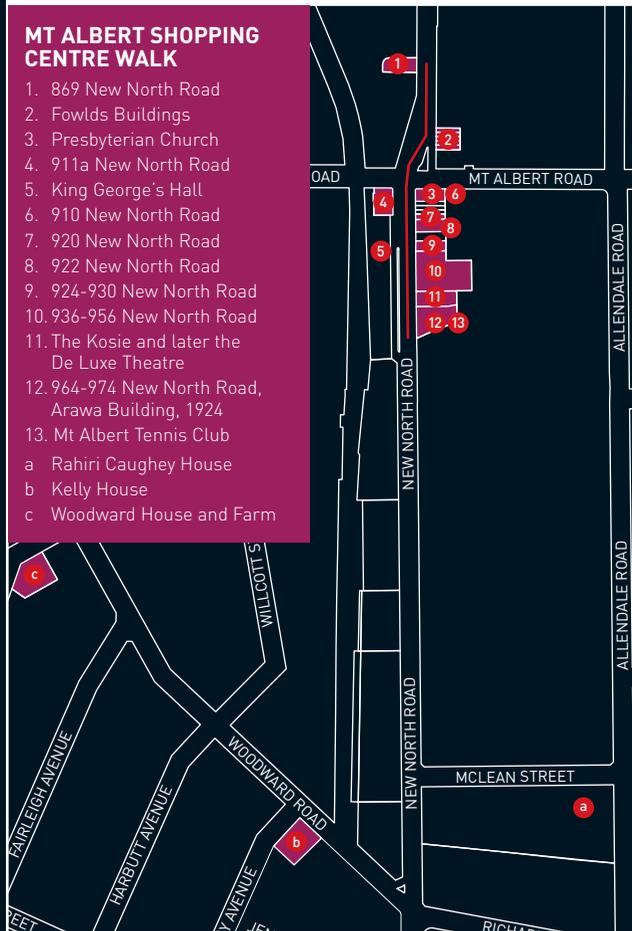
# MT ALBERT SHOPPING CENTRE WALK



THE WALK STARTS AT 869 NEW NORTH ROAD AND PROCEEDS INTO THE SHOPPING CENTRE. WALKERS SHOULD REMAIN ON THIS SIDE OF THE ROAD IN ORDER TO GET THE BEST VIEW OF THE SHOP FACADES. CROSS OVER AT THE LIGHTS, REMAINING ON THE SAME SIDE. AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL HAS PLACED PLAQUES GIVING A BRIEF HISTORY OUTSIDE SOME OF BUILDINGS ON THIS WALK.

## MT ALBERT SHOPPING CENTRE WALK

1. 869 New North Road
  2. Fowlds Buildings
  3. Presbyterian Church
  4. 911a New North Road
  5. King George's Hall
  6. 910 New North Road
  7. 920 New North Road
  8. 922 New North Road
  9. 924-930 New North Road
  10. 936-956 New North Road
  11. The Kosie and later the De Luxe Theatre
  12. 964-974 New North Road, Arawa Building, 1924
  13. Mt Albert Tennis Club
- a Rahiri Caughey House  
b Kelly House  
c Woodward House and Farm



Generally speaking, the Mt Albert shopping centre is a 1920s retail development. Customers were provided with all their basic needs with a choice of grocers, dairies, butchers and fishmongers. Chemists, hairdressers and a subscription library were also available and simple clothing needs were catered for. More expensive or unusual items could be purchased on trips to 'the city.'

## 1. 869 NEW NORTH ROAD

Around 1910, this building was built for Kathleen Carr. She became the first postmistress around 1912 and her shop served as the first Post Office until 1930 when a brick one was built. This building was a Community House before becoming the base for the Community Constable in 2000.

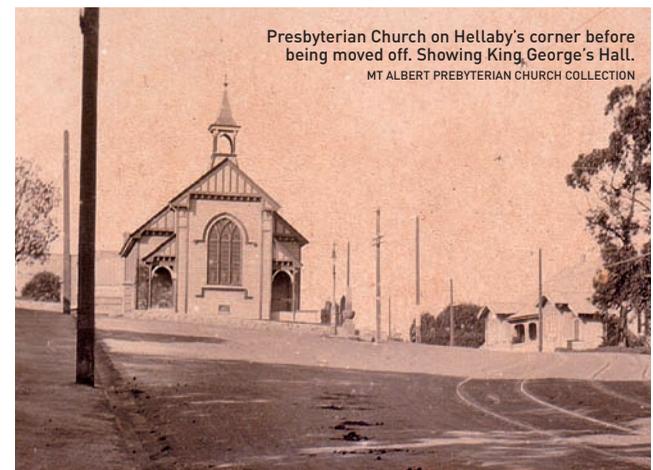
## 2. FOWLDS BUILDINGS 890-896 NEW NORTH ROAD

This block of shops was built between 1928 and 1929. It was named after the previous owner of the land, Sir George Fowlds who was a clothier, politician, university administrator and community leader. He was an MP from 1902 to 1911, Minister of Education and Minister of Public Health. He was a crusader for progressive causes and was knighted in 1928.

## 3. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This photograph shows the Mt Albert Presbyterian Church on its original site where R & W Hellaby's built their butcher's shop on the corner. Edward Allen did not follow common practice of giving half the land for the road but instead paid for the development of the road while requiring that his neighbour donated all the necessary land. This meant that the road was built with a kink before it resumed a true course. The drinking fountain could be the one donated by Sir George Fowlds. Opposite the church is the King George's Hall.

3.



Presbyterian Church on Hellaby's corner before being moved off. Showing King George's Hall.  
MT ALBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLLECTION

#### 4. 911A NEW NORTH ROAD

This corner site was a garden before the railway was constructed in the 1880s. During 1930 to 1931, a brick Post Office was built here. The current building was originally a Post Office and was built as a replacement in 1975. King George's Hall was next door, approximately where the video shop is today.

#### 5. KING GEORGE'S HALL

A committee of concerned citizens, initially led by A. T. Garlick, formed in 1908 to establish a community hall. They decided that it should be an institute or club with a gymnasium. After three years of looking at different sites, a portion of the railway reserve facing New North Road was decided on. Early in 1912 a public meeting was called to discuss the progress made. Subsequently, the King George's Hall was built and opened the following November. It became a community hub and at different times housed a kindergarten, the Mt Albert Gymnasium Club and dances. The hall was demolished in the early 1950s.

AUCKLAND CITY ARCHIVES MAC 147/1 NEGATIVE MAC25/10

5.



*Look across the intersection to the corner directly opposite.*

#### 6. 910 NEW NORTH ROAD, R & W HELLABY LTD

The meat company, R & W Hellaby Ltd, bought this site from the Presbyterian Church in 1922 during a time of rapid expansion for the company. They built their premises in 1923. The building had two shops, a butcher's at the corner, and a leased Self Help shop from 1929 to c.1958. It ceased to be a butcher's shop by the early 1970s, and was sold in 1972.

*Continue walking along examining the shop facades.*



R and W Hellaby's building on the cnr of Mt Albert and New North roads.  
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM RADCLIFFE DU 436.1254

#### 7. 920 NEW NORTH ROAD

This shop was purchased in the late 1930s by Mrs Dove, who ran it with the help of her daughters, Olive, Gladys and Iris. Men and women's underwear, jumpers, cardigans, hosiery, linen, blankets, eiderdowns, knitting needles, stranded cottons, sylkos, fabrics, pins and needles were some of the goods sold. The haberdashery business was eventually sold in 1963.

7.



Showing interior of Dove's Drapery.  
OLIVE PERKINS COLLECTION

## 8. 922 NEW NORTH ROAD

This may be one of the oldest shops in the Mt Albert shopping centre. A confectioner named A. Brookes was here in 1919. Ambury's had a branch of their chain of dairies here from c.1930 to 1941. T Walton ran a book club or subscription library here until the late 1950s, before a jeweller's took over until at least the 1980s.

## 9. 924-930 NEW NORTH ROAD

The electric tram service reached the Mt Albert Shops in September 1915. By 1916, the Thode Brothers, who were grocers, and a chemist named W. H. McKinney were operating from this site. These shops became known as the Terminus Store from c.1919, associating the shops with the tram terminus. Eventually, the whole line of shops was known as 'the Terminus' or 'the Termo'. The ballast line railway crossed over the road preventing the tram service going further. The ballast line was uplifted in 1928 and the tram service was extended after that date.

9.



The tram is parked alongside 914 -920 New North Road obscuring the Doves drapery shop. However, the Terminus Store is visible. C.1955.

GRAHAM STEWART COLLECTION AK 250

## 10. 936-956 NEW NORTH ROAD

This block is the largest continuous development in the Mt Albert Shopping Centre. The first shops in this block appeared c.1926, a stationer and baker at 936 and 938 respectively, and a dentist and hairdresser at 948 and 950. By the mid 1930s, the block was fully occupied.

11.



The De Luxe Theatre.

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM LIBRARY. NEG M1038C

## 11. 958-960 NEW NORTH ROAD THE KOSIE AND LATER THE DE LUXE THEATRE

This picture theatre was conveniently situated on the New North Road tram line along with Kingsland's Royal Theatre. Its opening attraction in 1924 was 'Hollywood' billed as 'the Wonder Picture' with a supporting programme including a comedy, a scenic film and a budget film. The Kosie Orchestra provided the music, with the overture being played at 7.45pm sharp.

In 1927 it received a name change and a new upmarket image. It was remodelled to include special lighting, stage effects, an orchestra well, and improved seating, cloakrooms and lounges. In 1929 the theatre came under the management of Amalgamated Theatres and was called the New De Luxe. The opening movie was John Gilbert and Joan Crawford in 'Four Walls.' A free bus service from neighbouring suburbs was supplied every Saturday night.

In 1930 the talkies came to Mt Albert and the first movie with sound shown was 'Peacock Alley'. The picture theatre continued in operation until 1985 when its final screening was 'Dracula Erotica'. It was then used for church meetings before being developed into apartments.

## 12. 964-974 NEW NORTH ROAD, ARAWA BUILDING

The earliest businesses appear on this site from c.1924. Most of the block may have been occupied by a grocers store up until World War II, and then divided into separate shops. No. 970 was the local State Advances office from the mid 1940s until the mid 1950s.

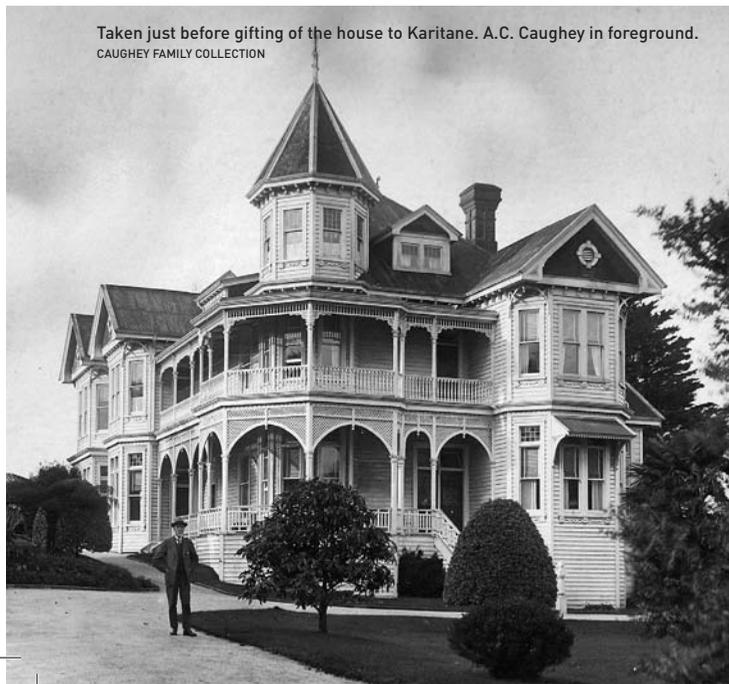


Mt Albert Shopping Centre showing picture theatre and Arawa building.  
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM NEGATIVE NO. C6001 DU436.1254

## 13. 982 NEW NORTH ROAD, MT ALBERT TENNIS CLUB

This club was founded in 1894 and used two grass courts at Ferndale. It moved to its present location around 1920 and currently has five synthetic grass courts.

Taken just before gifting of the house to Karitane. A.C. Caughey in foreground.  
CAUGHEY FAMILY COLLECTION



## A. 'RAHIRI', CAUGHEY HOUSE, 15 MCLEAN STREET

B

Andrew Clarke Caughey served a portion of his probationary period within the Methodist Ministry before leaving due to ill health. In 1886, he married Lucy Rainger and by 1888 they were living in 'Rahiri'. The house was enlarged around the turn of the century. Local architect Arthur White is said to have drawn up the plans including the prominent octagonal tower. James Penman, a local builder, is reputed to have built the extensions.

In 1923, the Caugheys gifted 'Rahiri' to the Plunket Society for use as a Karitane Home. It was used for the care of malnourished and delicate children, premature babies and new mothers. It also served as a training school for Karitane nurses. This facility was closed down in September 1978.

## B. KELLY HOUSE, 10 WOODWARD ROAD II B

James Walter Chapman-Taylor arrived in New Zealand in 1881 as a two and a half year old. He trained as an architect by correspondence and went back to England in 1909, becoming familiar with the work of William Morris and Edward Lutyens. He adopted the Morris philosophy of personal involvement and handcraft.

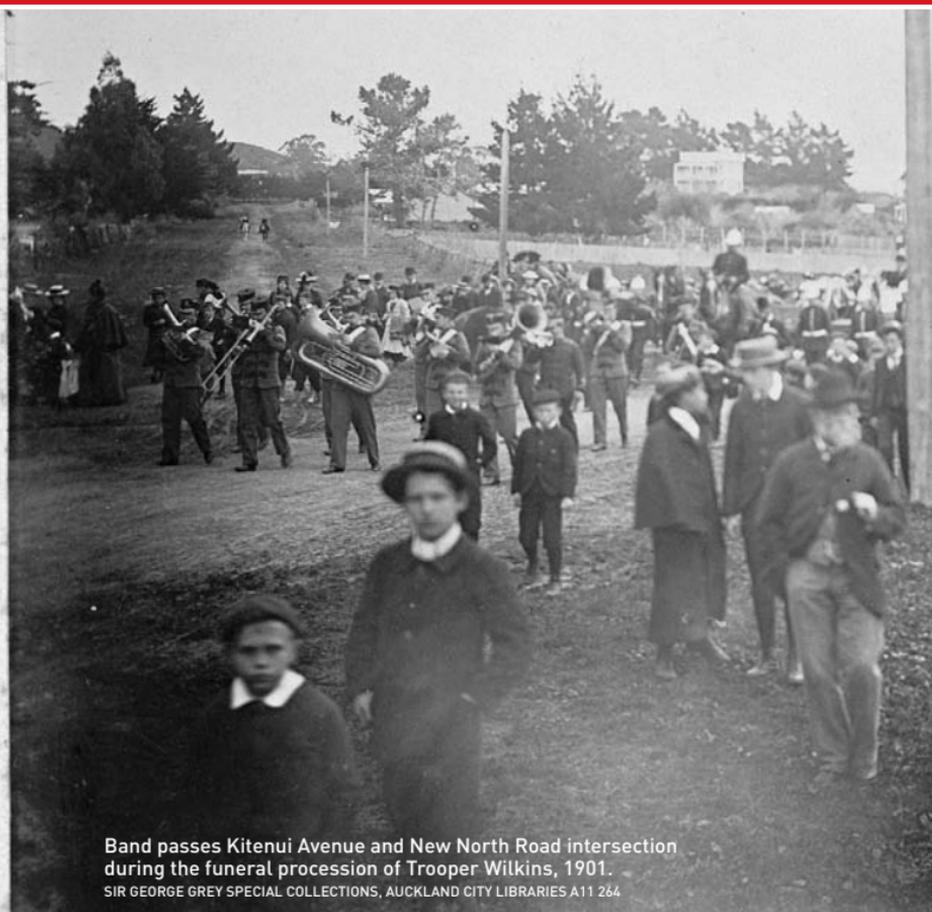
This house was designed for Mrs Ellen Kelly in 1924. Chapman-Taylor prepared special brochures to accompany each house he built. The brochure for this one describes the 4 x 3 rebated Jarrah door frames, the adze hewn Oregon pine doors and the steel casements made by James Gibbons of Wolverhampton. The house exterior woodwork was to be painted with crude creosote and all metal work was to be black. In the interior the Jarrah was to be stained with raw linseed oil and all Oregon pine panelling was to be stained green.

## C. WOODWARD HOUSE AND FARM, 2 SPRINGLEIGH AVENUE

Mark and Sarah Woodward bought 60 acres of land from John Logan Campbell in 1868. The land was extremely rocky and required a lot of work clearing the scoria and forming stone walls. The family built its first home from rocks set in a double skin of lime concrete and the original gables are still visible from the west. The Woodwards developed a model farm winning prizes for the romneys and shorthorns they bred. The farmyard and stud stood at the intersection of Mark Road and Springleigh Avenue.

The house was modernized in 1916 in the Arts and Crafts style for the marriage of Sarah and Mark's youngest son, Frank. Originally, it opened onto Woodward Road. Harold Marshall, Sarah and Mark's great grandson, and his wife Shirley, redesigned the house in the 1970s so that it opened off Springleigh Ave. The style and character of the building were retained.

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Band passes Kitenui Avenue and New North Road intersection during the funeral procession of Trooper Wilkins, 1901.

SIR GEORGE GREY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AUCKLAND CITY LIBRARIES A11 264

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*Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau*

