

WDC District Plan Review – Built Heritage Assessment

Historic Overview – Eastern Sector



HERITAGE
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES

Eastern Sector

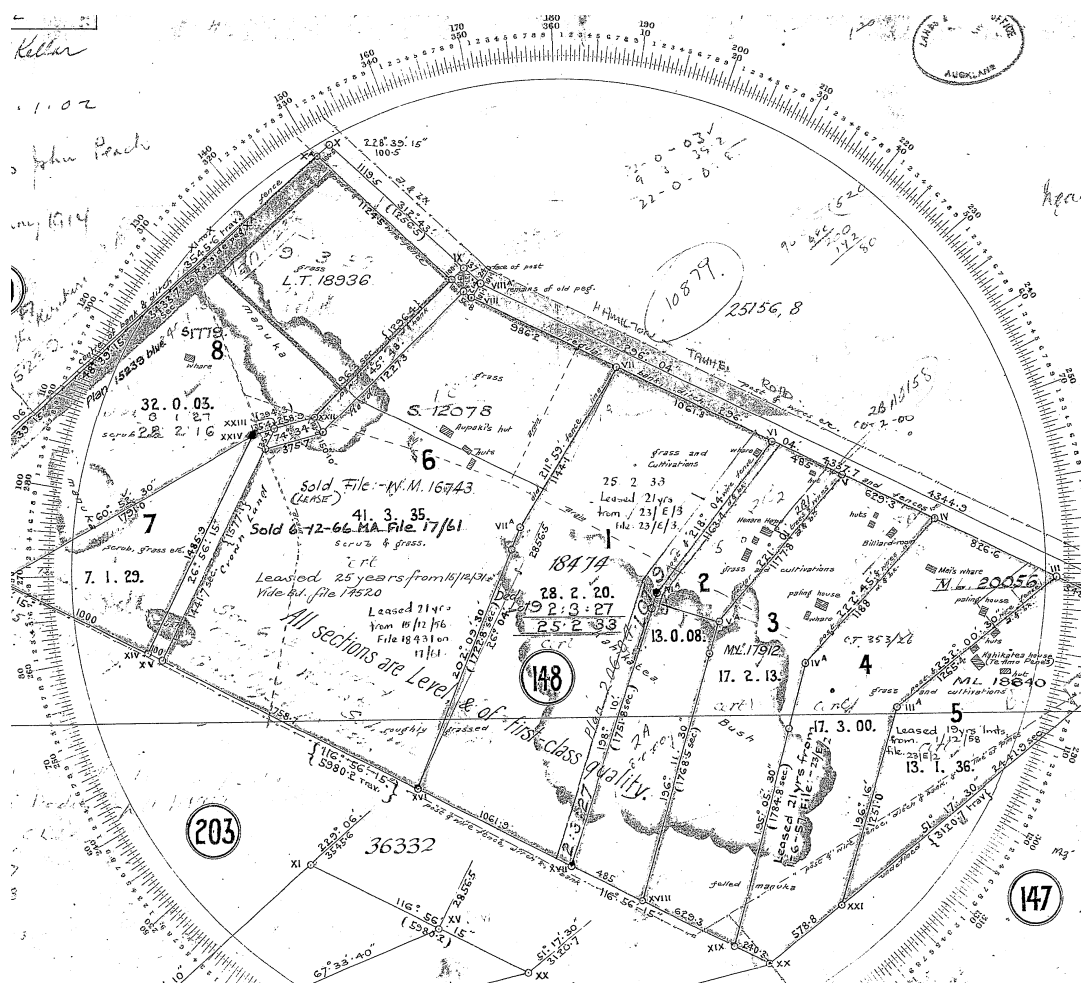
The eastern part of the district, south of the Hapuakohe hills, was included in the land confiscations of the 1860s. Several blocks, generally bordering streams and rivers, were subsequently surveyed into 50-acre parcels as grants to militiamen of the Fourth Waikato Regiment: largely around Komakorau, Horsham Downs and Tamahere. Areas such as Hillcrest, Ruakura, Claudelands, Queenwood, Flagstaff, and Rototuna which were once in Waikato County or District, were also part of the same survey and settlement process.

Militiamen-settlers found access to their rural allotments was difficult, if not impossible, because of the steep gullies and lack of roads and bridges. Many allotments were swampy and were exchanged for other parcels or were sold or abandoned within the first few years of ownership (from 1864). This provided the opportunity for other farmers to add to their holdings and for investors from Auckland and overseas to acquire Waikato land. Many prominent farmers from this district were members of the Highway Boards and the Waikato County Council; they ensured roads and bridges were built and maintained.



Figure 131: Plan of the Military settlements in the Upper Waikato District, c.1865. The northern boundary of the map is the Komakorau Creek. Most of these 50-acre parcels were allotted to men of the 4th Waikato Regiment. The large parcel allocated as 'Tamahere Native Land' is shown at lower right. University of Waikato Collection, Hamilton.

Approximately 176 acres at Hukanui (Gordonton), on the western side of Gordonton Road, was designated as a timber reserve and later granted to Ngati Iranui, a sub-tribe of Ngati Wairere. A plan drawn in 1901 shows cultivations, several buildings with the names of their owners or occupants, and even a billiard saloon.¹ Opposite on the eastern side of the road were a further 154 acres granted to Hohaia and Ripeka Ngahiwi.² Hukanui Marae (Ngati Makirangi, Ngati Wairere) is situated on what was the timber reserve.



Eureka. This was the estate's headquarters, until 1881 when that portion of the estate, some 2000 acres, was purchased by Albert Suttor. Woodlands then became the headquarters. In 1892 Suttor sold his property back to the NZ Land Association, as it was then known.⁶ Under John Gordon's management of the estate, out of a total area of c. 88,000 acres, 30,000 were under grass by September 1900, carrying 30,000 sheep, 3,000 head of cattle and several hundred horses.⁷

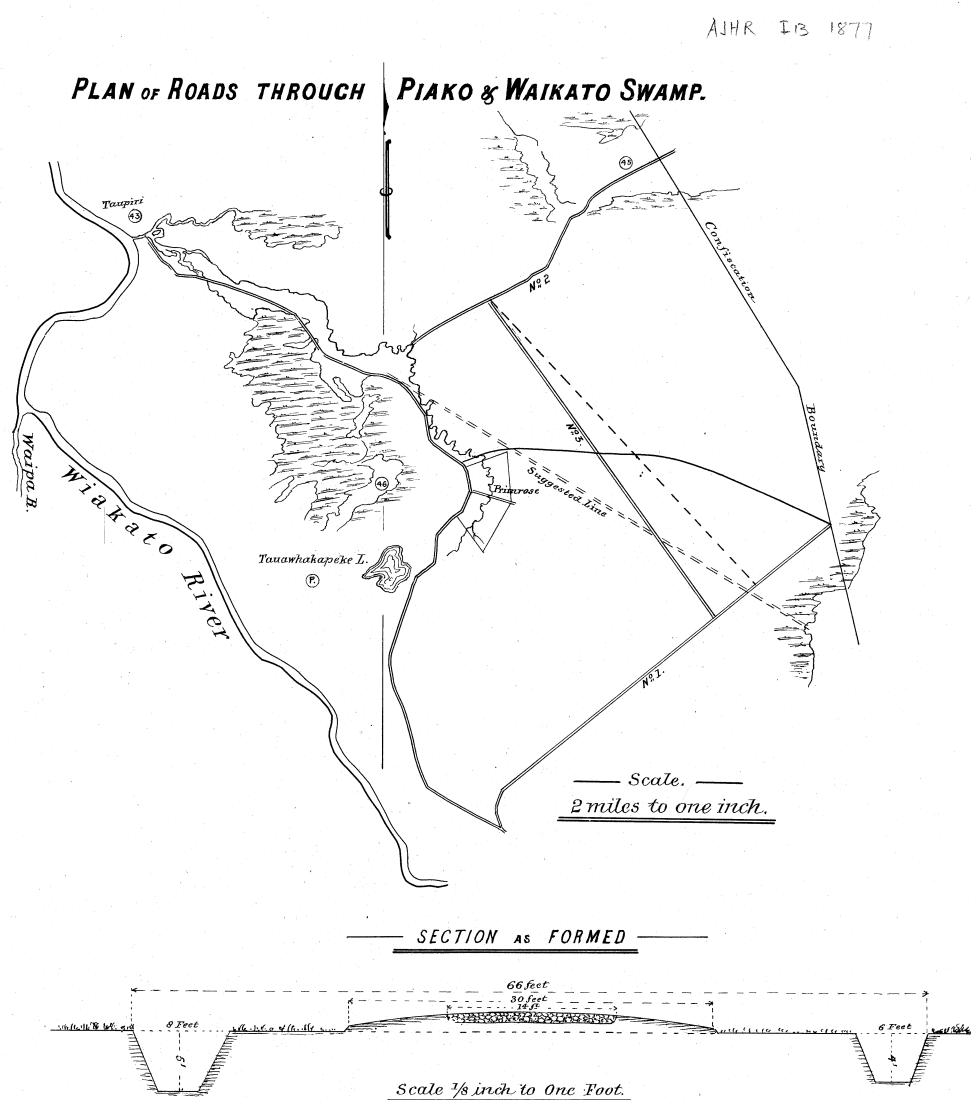


Figure 133: 'Plan of Roads through Piako & Waikato Swamp', AJHR I13 1877, University of Waikato Collection, Hamilton.

Despite its promise, the huge expense of the drainage scheme eventually contributed to the bankruptcy of the estate. Its lands were taken over and managed by the Assets Realisation Board through the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency, which surveyed it into smaller parcels for individual ownership and sold them from 1902 onwards. In April 1902 the NZLMA put 7000 acres of the Eureka Estate up for sale; 'rich swamp land and undulating country' having been surveyed into conveniently sized dairy and grazing farms for private sale.⁸ The company added the promise that when enough farms were sold a dairy factory would be established. A clearing sale of sheep, cattle, horses and implements was held in

⁶ David, p. 8.

⁷ *Waikato Argus* 29 September 1900, p. 4.

⁸ *Waikato Argus* 5 April 1902 p. 4.

June 1902.⁹ The success of the sales induced the Land Association to make available for sale a further 4,000 acres near Taupiri.¹⁰

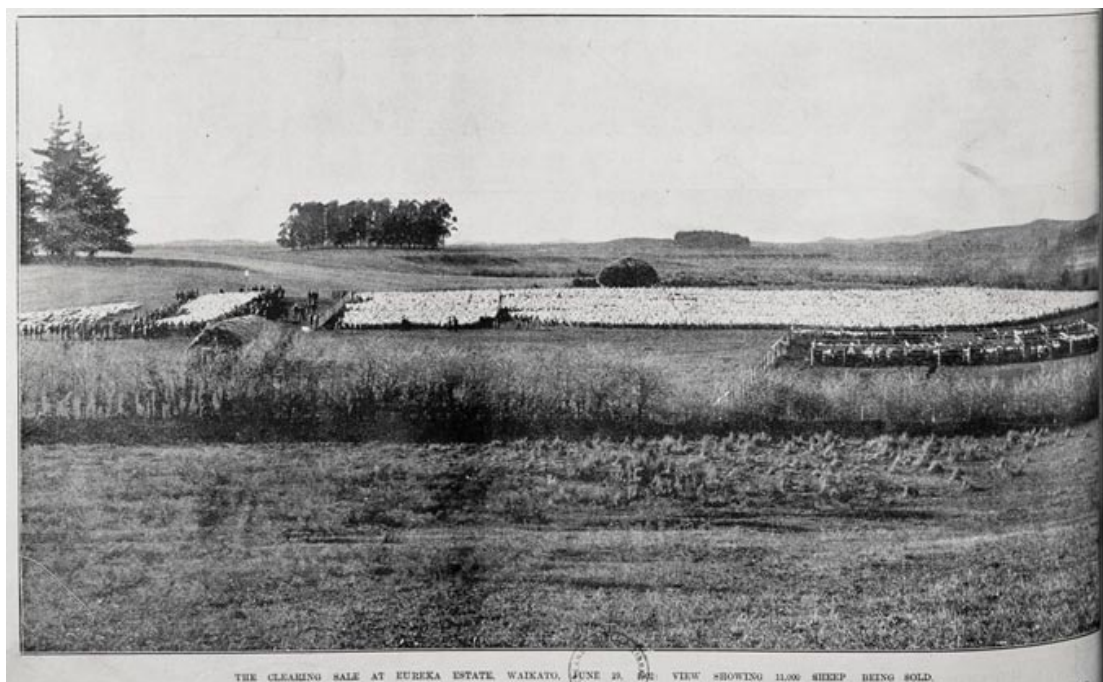


Figure 134: The clearing sale at the Eureka Estate, 19 June 1902 with 11,000 sheep being sold by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company. *Auckland Weekly News* 3 July 1902, p. 12. AWNS-19020703-12-5, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries.

The Land Association and subsequent owners ultimately achieved the aim of turning much of the extensive swampland in the eastern Waikato into pastoral land. From 1902 the population density increased and settlements such as Eureka, Rototuna, Puketaha and Tauwhare developed to serve farmers in each locality. For the first three to four decades of European ownership these areas' histories were dominated by that of the estate. The main industry of the area has been dairying for over a century.

Te Hoe - Mangawara

After the Waikato War, the land to the north of Te Hoe was surveyed and awarded to Maori individuals, although it was not necessarily their original land.¹¹ Land to the south and west was surveyed with a few 50-acre parcels for militiamen, Maori and one 50-acre parcel reserved for a blockhouse.¹² To the west, Auckland investors Messrs Dilworth and Hall purchased 5,850 acres. By 1924 a post office and hall had been built at the junction of Proctor and Tahuna Roads and a school site was set aside on the Tahuna Road.¹³ The school was housed in the hall from 1912 until 1925, when the school building was erected. It was enlarged in 1929 and 1947, but has now closed and local pupils attend Orini Combined School. A teacher's house was provided in 1948.¹⁴

A quarry for road metal was operated at Te Hoe in the 1920s by CC Green.¹⁵ Milk was carted to the Taupiri Dairy factory, although some suppliers may have taken their milk to Spragg's Orini cheese factory established in 1914.¹⁶

⁹ *Waikato Argus* 24 April 1902, p. 3.

¹⁰ *Waikato Argus* 19 June 1902, p. 2.

¹¹ SO 394, 1867.

¹² SO 399, 1867.

¹³ DP 17962.

¹⁴ More, p. 170.

¹⁵ Lumsden, p. 28; More, p. 96.

¹⁶ More, p. 110.

By the end of World War II Te Hoe had a school, hall, petrol station, butcher's shop and general store.¹⁷ Te Hoe Home Kills still operates from the butcher's shop site. The current Te Hoe Memorial Hall was built in 1957.¹⁸

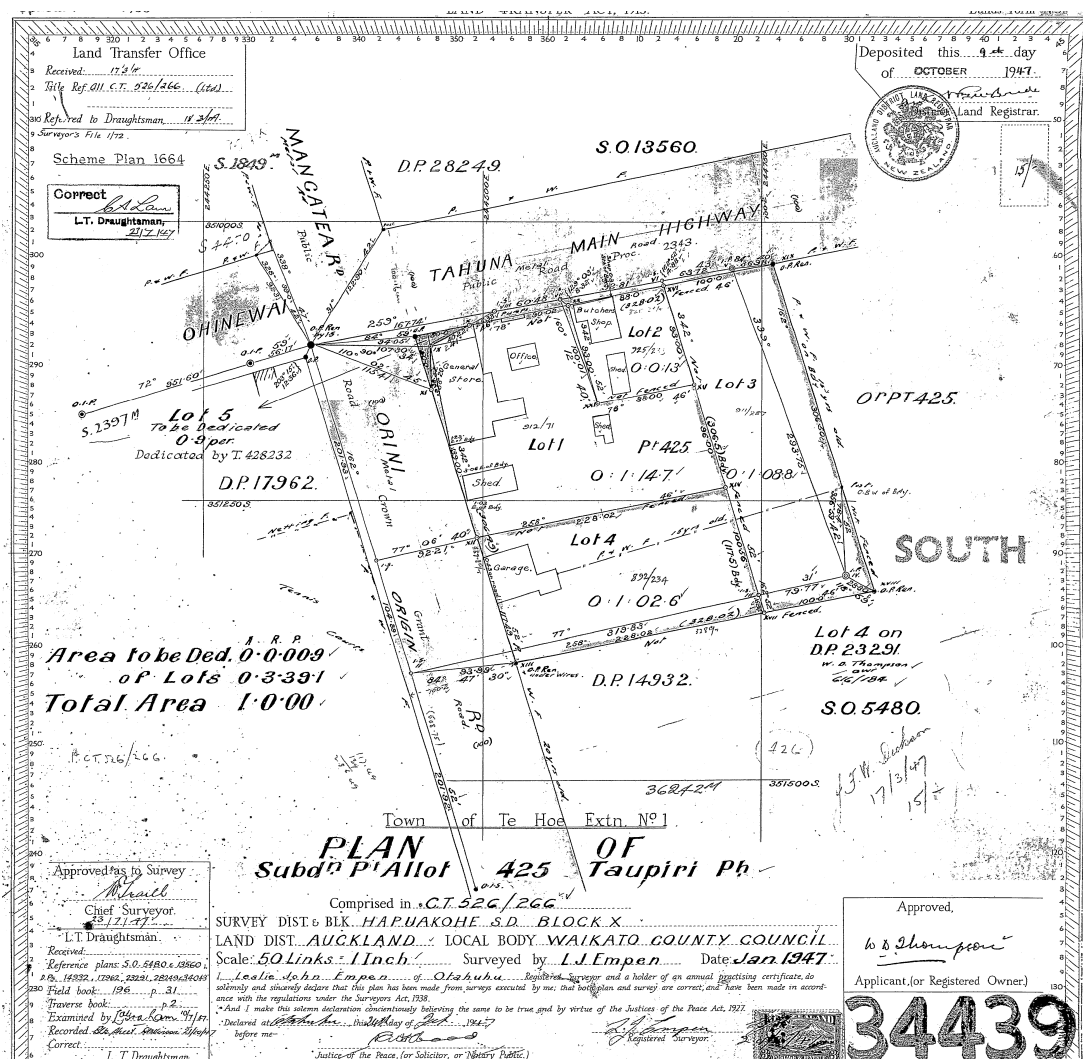


Figure 135: Part of Te Hoe in 1947 with locations of the general store, an office, butcher's shop and garage. DP 34439.

Mangawara was once part of the New Zealand Land Association's large estate, and when kauri gum deposits were found and mined in the area in 1893, royalties were paid to the association.¹⁹

Orini

The land around Orini was first surveyed into 50-acre parcels, some being granted to militiamen.²⁰ In July 1876 much of the land became part of the Woodlands Estate through the NZLMA.²¹ The Paranui Drain and Murchie Drain at Orini form part of the network dug to drain the swamps; the Mangawara Stream was straightened near Orini and for that portion is called the Orini Canal.²²

¹⁷ Bradbury 1951, p. 45; DP 34439.

¹⁸ <http://fionajack.net/list-of-halls/>

¹⁹ More, p. 65.

²⁰ SO 406.

²¹ DP 28474.

²² <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz590/Mangawara-Stream/>



Figure 136: Orini School, 26 April 1954. WA-35499-F, Whites Aviation Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

Two acres was set aside for the school site at Orini in 1907.²³ The school, built in 1908, was first named Woodlands.²⁴ The property was extended in 1947.²⁵ The school burnt down in 1966 but was soon replaced.²⁶ Orini Combined School now caters for students from Year 0 to Year 8, and is a merger of the Orini, Te Hoe, Netherby and Mangawara Schools.²⁷

Orini District Church, built in brick with tile roof in 1955, is situated east of the village hub. A more modern building, the Brethren Orini Chapel, stands across the road from the school with a small wooden church beside it.

There was a store in the settlement by 1910, on a parcel owned by A Wilson.²⁸ In 1912 a hall site was surveyed for the Orini Hall Committee.²⁹ The hall and store are marked on a 1918 survey plan but both buildings that exist today were built more recently: Orini Hall in 1938 and the Orini Store, built in Huntly brick, would appear to date from c.1950.³⁰

Industries in the area included processing the milk produced by local herds. A creamery was established by 1907 on land bought from the Woodlands Estate in 1906 by Ambury and English.³¹ This became a

²³ DP 4234.

²⁴ Kellaway, pp. 137-9.

²⁵ SO 33608.

²⁶ Kellaway, p. 139.

²⁷ <http://www.orini.school.nz/>

²⁸ DP 4936.

²⁹ DP 7698.

³⁰ SO 20146.

³¹ DP 3788; SO 14343.

cheese factory established by Wesley Spragg in 1914, prior to the company's amalgamation with the NZ Co-operative Dairy Company. The company purchased land near the factory and built houses for staff. The original creamery burnt down in 1922, was rebuilt the following year and again burnt down in 1947; after being rebuilt in 1947 it was converted to a cheese factory operated by the NZ Dairy Association and operated until 1971.³² It was then used only intermittently and is now in private ownership.

Netherby-Whitikahu

The locality of Netherby at the junction of Henry and Tenfoot Roads was surveyed for sale by the Land Association in 1908; much of the land at that time was still swamp.³³ By 1919 there were sufficient settlers with children to need a school; land was offered free in 1921 but in 1928 the Education Board bought a different site.³⁴ In 1928 lessons began in a marquee while the school was being built on Tenfoot Road.³⁵ Netherby School and 'the Tenfoot District' (named for the long straight road through the area) celebrated its golden jubilee in 1978.³⁶ The school merged with Whitikahu before 1976 and the property is now in private ownership.

Whitikahu School was built in 1912 and has had many additions.³⁷ The original building remains as part of the complex. A community hall was built in 1938 and it houses a wooden Roll of Honour plaque commemorating the war service of local residents.³⁸

In addition to dairying, the district has a blueberry farm and winery.³⁹ Senton Sawmill Ltd north of Whitikahu processed logs from the Maramarua Forest.⁴⁰ In 1961 Owen Hansen subdivided a strip of land beside Orini Road, close to the sawmill for housing, and formed Lucien Place.⁴¹

Kainui – Komakorau - Horsham Downs

Much of the Kainui-Komakorau-Horsham Downs area was surveyed after 1864 as 50-acre allotments to be granted to militiamen of the Fourth Waikato Regiment.⁴² The heart of the Horsham Downs area was within the Woodlands Estate, but when it was subdivided in 1902 809 ha were bought by AFW Lorie, who came from Horsham in Sussex – hence the name. Lorie fertilised and developed what had been waste land and brought it into production.⁴³ His efforts were widely praised.⁴⁴ After Lorie sold up in 1911, his beef and sheep station was subdivided by the new owners, Lichtenstein, Arnoldson & Co. into 11 dairy farms.⁴⁵

³² More, pp. 110, 112.

³³ DP 4258.

³⁴ More, p. 173; DP 21309.

³⁵ More, p. 173.

³⁶ WL Watson *Netherby School and Tenfoot District Golden Jubilee 1928-1978*.

³⁷ Kellaway, pp. 148-9.

³⁸ <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/whitikahu-memorial-hall>.

³⁹ <http://www.blueland.co.nz/about-us/>

⁴⁰ More, p. 129.

⁴¹ DPS 7195.

⁴² E.g. SO 132, 139, 144, 397, 406.

⁴³ More, p. 59.

⁴⁴ *Waikato Argus* 4 December 1908, p. 2.

⁴⁵ *Waikato Argus* 27 August 1912, p. 2; DP 7516.



Figure 137: 'The Homestead, Horsham Downs, Hamilton, Waikato. Mr Salmon, of Dunedin, was the architect' *Otago Witness* 15 July 1908, p. 46.

The area contained several lakes and large areas of swamp but much of this has become farmland, primarily for dairying. Several creameries were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, such as one on the Waikato River bank opposite the end of Kay Road. Kay Road used to extend to the river where there was a landing or jetty in the days when the river was the main freight route. The Horsham Downs Dairy Factory, built in 1912 (burnt down 1929) by Lichtenstein, Arnoldson & Co. as a co-operative, used the landing to export butter.⁴⁶ Milk was later taken from the area to Taupiri for processing.⁴⁷

The Komakorau creamery was established by NZ Dairy Association and then bought by Ambury and English; in 1953 a completely new cheese factory was built, the first in 30 years. It was still operating in 1976 after installation of a more modern cheese plant.⁴⁸ A school was built at Komakorau in 1901, financed and built by the settlers with a little assistance from the Education Board. A later school building (1911) was shifted to Ngaruawahia.⁴⁹ By the early 1990s Komakorau's school, post office and creamery had all been demolished or removed. Only the local hall remained. It was built in a day in March 1914 and relocated to Gordonton School, for use as the school's hall, in 1997.

Horsham Downs School opened in March 1916 and a teacher's house was built in 1938.⁵⁰ The proximity of Horsham Downs to the ever-expanding Hamilton City means that approximately 60% of the school's pupils come from the city, though the school is still classified as rural.⁵¹ Roading changes altered the layout of the Horsham Downs settlement a few years ago; the school, a brick-and-tile church and the community hall are now on a short no-exit road, Martin Lane.

Gordonton

The area was known as Hukanui [aka Hukunui] before the name was changed to Gordonton in 1903 in honour of John Gordon when he moved to Eureka. In 1883 the Waikato Land Association had laid out a village with lots for sale, for those who might wish to work at Woodlands but live in their own homes. Some of the 32 quarter-acre sections remain, others have been re-surveyed and amalgamated as larger parcels.⁵²

⁴⁶ *Waikato Argus* 27 August 1912, p. 2.

⁴⁷ More, p. 110.

⁴⁸ Ibid, p. 113.

⁴⁹ Kellaway, p. 144.

⁵⁰ Ibid, pp. 153, 296-7; DP 10053; More, p. 172.

⁵¹ http://www.findus.co.nz/listing/x_listing_id/03330.html

⁵² DP 284.

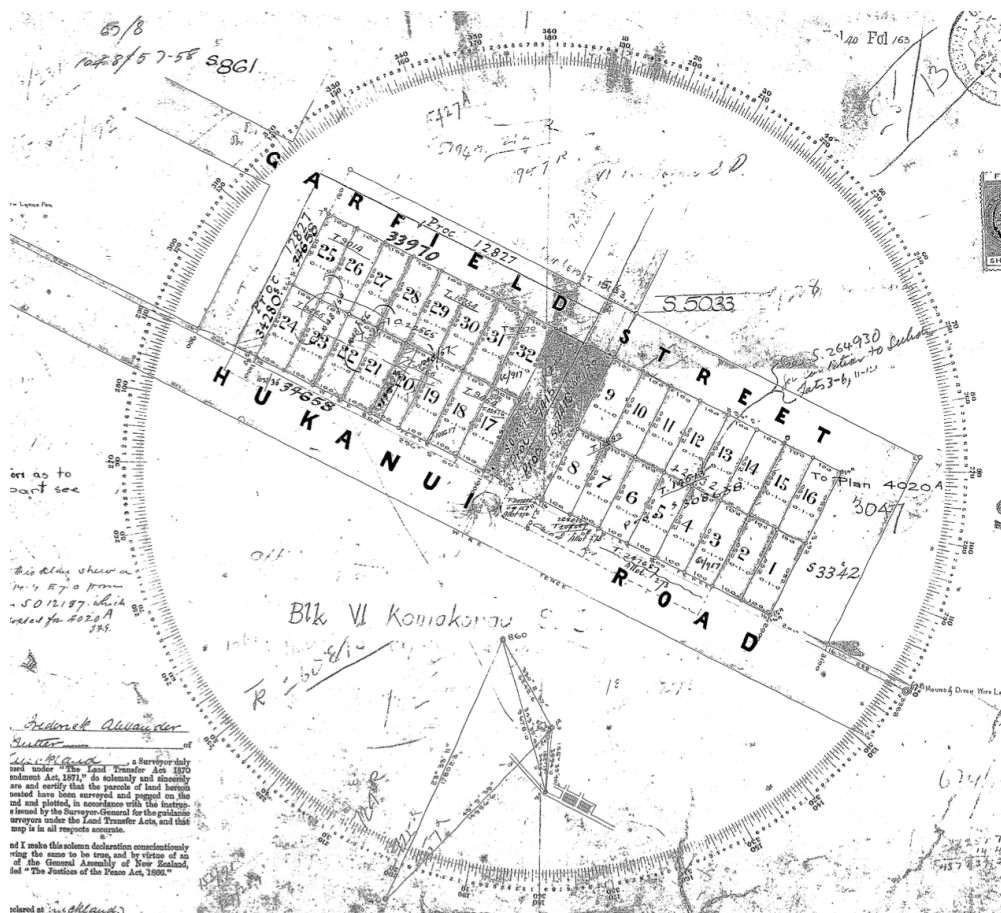


Figure 138: Subdivision of land at Hukanui by the Waikato Land Association, May 1884. DP 284 (part).

Residents of Hukanui met to discuss erecting a hall in 1883.⁵³ The Land Association offered a site and started a fund for its erection. The meeting, as with regular church services, were held in the dining room at Woodlands.⁵⁴ The hall was available for a church service in late 1883, but officially opened in January 1884.⁵⁵ It was used for balls, meetings and as a polling place.⁵⁶ A World War I memorial was unveiled in front of the hall in October 1918, almost a month before the war was officially over.⁵⁷ While the memorial remains, the hall was demolished and replaced in 1998. Presbyterian and Anglican churches date from 1918 and 1934 respectively.

By 1891 locals felt the number of children in the district warranted a school and the hall was offered for use.⁵⁸ This local action convinced the Education Board of the need for a purpose-built school building (1893).⁵⁹ The school site on Gordonton Road, west of the community hall, is now the location of the Gordonton Playgroup. A new school in Woodlands Road opened in 1961; it continues to grow, prompted in part by the closure of Komakorau School and the extensions to Hamilton's northern suburbs.⁶⁰

Gordonton's first dairy factory was a skimming station, but in 1916 a cheese factory was built. This operated until 1953, at which time the factory was enlarged and altered to become a casein factory.⁶¹ The building is now in commercial use. In 1952 New Zealand's first herringbone milking shed was built

⁵³ *Waikato Times* 12 July 1883 p. 3.

⁵⁴ *New Zealand Herald* 17 July 1883, p. 6.

⁵⁵ *Waikato Times* 20 December 1883, p. 2; *Waikato Times* 5 January 1884, p. 2.

⁵⁶ *Observer* 26 April 1890, p. 17; *Waikato Times* 6 November 1890, p. 2.

⁵⁷ *Waikato Times* 17 October 1918, p. 3.

⁵⁸ *New Zealand Herald* 30 January 1891, p. 6.

⁵⁹ *Waikato Times* 30 July 1892 p. 2.

⁶⁰ <http://www.gordonton.school.nz/index.php/about-us/history>

⁶¹ More p. 113.

at Gordonton by Ron Sharp. In 2000 Sharp became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to the dairy industry.

Puketaha

Puketaha was part of the Hillside and Ormond Block of Woodlands Estate until large parcels of over 100 acres were subdivided for sale.⁶² In 1903, the NZ Loan and Mercantile Agency, which had taken over management of Woodlands, advertised that 12,268 acres had been surveyed into conveniently-sized dairy and grazing farms.⁶³ In 1905 the area was mostly still deep peat swamp with only one sand road.⁶⁴ As dairy farms developed, a small creamery was established, local farmers having met Wesley Spragg of the NZ Dairy Association as early as August 1903 with the promise of milk from 198 cows.⁶⁵ Puketaha School opened in 1916 and a teacher's residence was built in 1932.⁶⁶ The former has been extended and other buildings erected on the school site.



Figure 139: Puketaha School, n.d. *Puketaha School and District Golden Jubilee* cover image.

A memorial hall was built north of the school in 1954, fundraising having begun in 1946. A roll of honour with the names of local men who had served was erected in the hall. In 1955 a local branch of the Returned Services Association was formed.⁶⁷

Eureka

Eureka was on the route of the Thames-Waikato railway line, construction of which began in 1879. The settlement had a flag station that was still in use in the mid-20th century. Around 1900, Henry Reynolds purchased 1259 ha at Eureka and 679 ha at Newstead. John Gordon also bought some of the Eureka Estate, including the homestead. By then the Eureka Estate homestead was run down, so Gordon built a new homestead close to the original site.

⁶² E.g. DP 3561.

⁶³ *Waikato Argus* 4 February 1903, p. 3.

⁶⁴ *Puketaha School and District Golden Jubilee* p. 8.

⁶⁵ *Auckland Star* 7 August 1903, p. 2

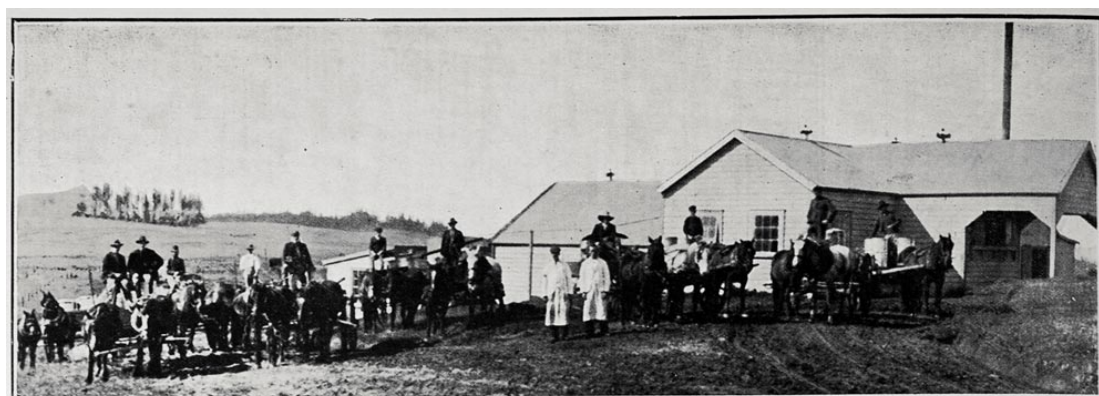
⁶⁶ More, p. 173; Kellaway, p. 295.

⁶⁷ *Puketaha School and District Golden Jubilee* p.13.



Figure 140: The Gordon homestead. *Eureka* p.20.

A school, partly funded by local people and erected on land gifted by John Gordon, was built at Eureka in May 1904.⁶⁸ The school is situated at the crossroads of the main highway, Eureka Road and Hunter Road. The addition of a further parcel of land allowed the erection of another building in 1907; the original building then became the village post office in 1915.⁶⁹ Further additions were built as the roll grew. The school is now occupied by the Westmount Christian School.⁷⁰



NEW ZEALAND'S DAIRYING INDUSTRY: THE RECENTLY-ESTABLISHED EUREKA DAIRY FACTORY, WAIKATO, AUCKLAND. Bathgate, Photo.
Figure 141: 'The recently-established Eureka Dairy Factory'. *Auckland Weekly News* 28 December 1905, p. 10. AWNS-19051228-10-1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries.

A store was built at the road junction in 1925 by Patrick and May Shine, making groceries more readily available to the farmers of the district. The original store became a garage when a new store with house attached was built in 1928. The post office became part of the store from 1929.⁷¹

⁶⁸ More, p. 171.

⁶⁹ David, p. 27.

⁷⁰ <http://www.westmount.school.nz/about/our-history>

⁷¹ David, p. 33.

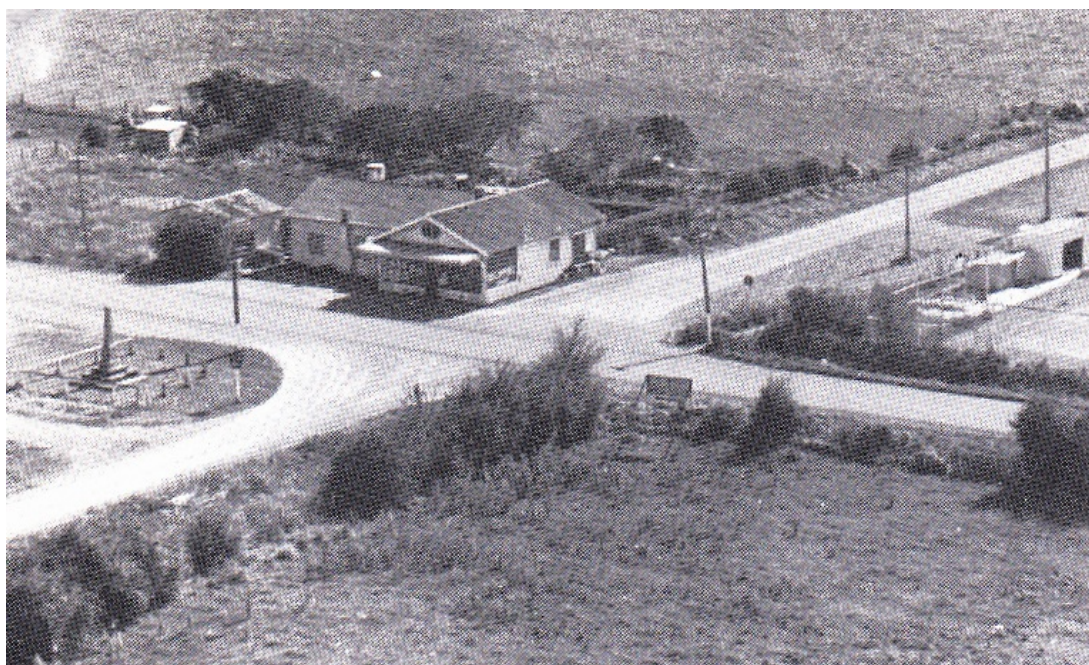


Figure 142: The Eureka Store with petrol pumps at the front and cenotaph at the main road junction. *Eureka* p. 34.

Fundraising for a community hall began in 1914, helped by the donation of a parcel of land on the south side of the main highway. The hall opened later in 1914 and it served as a church on Sundays.⁷² The community's World War I memorial was unveiled on the hall site by Lady Jellicoe on 26 June 1921. A new hall opened in January 1969.⁷³

By 1981 all of the early settler buildings in the heart of Eureka had disappeared, with only the hall and the Eureka Motors building of any age. The latter was opened in 1961 by Joe Stockman.⁷⁴ Although farming remained the main industry, road-building contractors operated from Eureka, as did the large Eureka Transport company in the 1970s. Horse studs were also established. Drainage of the swamps continued to be required for many years.

Newstead - Marshmeadows

Marshmeadows was the name of a large farm owned by James Runciman; of the 1500 acres, some 1000 was swamp, but Runciman dug a main drain across it and cross drains about every 800 metres.⁷⁵ He built a large bay villa at Marshmeadows and planted 50,000 trees, some of which remain.⁷⁶ Runciman was one of the local farmers who established the Waikato Cheese and Bacon Factory, the first in the district, in 1882. Marshmeadows (Newstead Model Country) School, built on land gifted by Runciman, was established in 1890 and by 1901 it had a roll of 63 pupils.⁷⁷

Newstead Station was the name given by Henry Reynolds to his 1600-acre farm. By 1901 Newstead possessed a post office and the Newstead Station Creamery with ten suppliers.⁷⁸ In 1935 the Hamilton Pure Milk Supply Company, led by Samuel Lye, erected a factory to produce town milk for Hamilton. Today Newstead is the location of the headquarters of the Livestock Improvement Company, the Newstead Model Country School and Hamilton's Park Cemetery (est. 1957).

⁷² David, p. 35.

⁷³ Ibid, p. 36.

⁷⁴ Ibid, p. 47.

⁷⁵ More, p. 59.

⁷⁶ Drummond, p. 47.

⁷⁷ *Cyclopædia* p. 755.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

Tauwhare - Scotsman Valley

Tauwhare was a part of the Eureka Estate that was subdivided in 1879 as 'Tawhare [sic] Suburban Lots'. It was intended to be a township comprised of 150 quarter-acre sections.⁷⁹ The township did not eventuate as planned, and in 1902 the NZ Land Association had the area re-surveyed, this time into two large parcels, one over 240 acres and another of 557 acres, with eight small parcels and a school site.⁸⁰ The large parcels were initially owned by C and A Ramsay and CR Roberts owned a small section at the junction of Tauwhare and Scotsman Valley Roads.

At Pukemoremore there was a large tract of land granted to Maori owners after the confiscations.⁸¹ In 1964 one portion of this land was subdivided into approximately ¼-acre sections on newly-formed Kahui Avenue.⁸² Tauwhare Pa and the Brethren Church's Tauwhare Gospel Chapel are located immediately to the west of this housing subdivision. Hanatoria, the c.1900 home of Karika Paehau and his wife Parepumai Te Whetuiti, is to the east on Ringer Road.

The main road between Hamilton and Piako initially went through Tauwhare. The Tauwhare Temperance Hotel and Store, newly erected, was offered for lease by the Waikato Land Association for a hard-working couple in October 1883.⁸³ As well as the hotel and a blacksmith's shop and house, other farms outside the Land Association's property were being farmed by December 1883, with orchards, plantations and grain fields.⁸⁴ Farms up Scotsman Valley had already been established by this time.

In November 1884 the *Waikato Times* reported that Tauwhare was 'making great strides towards claiming with authority the title of "township" ... houses may be seen at nice intervals and the district can boast of a school, hotel, post office and smithy'.⁸⁵ At that time the large two-storey hotel had been open for a year and the school for a fortnight; church services were to be held in the school. Two classrooms were added in 1936 but the 1884 school building has now gone.⁸⁶ St Andrew's Presbyterian Church opened in July 1916.

In December 1884 a Hamilton builder, Thomas Evans, was awarded the contract to build a cheese factory for the Waikato Land Association, to be erected in the township opposite Williamson's Hotel.⁸⁷ The building was completed in August 1885.⁸⁸ In 1905-06 season the factory became a skimming station for the Eureka dairy factory and in 1917 the Tauwhare factory closed.⁸⁹

In the 1930s a privately-operated quarry for blue metal was begun in Scotsman Valley. Ownership changed over the decades until, in 1962, a majority interest was bought by Winstones Ltd. Waitakaruru Arboretum and Sculpture Park, which has been developed in the disused quarry by John and Dorothy Wakeling since 1991, is a popular local attraction. Rob McHardie (junior) established Tauwhare Contractors in the early 1960s; by 1984 it was one of the largest employers in the district with a staff of 28.⁹⁰ Tauwhare remained rural in character for several decades, but more recently new subdivisions have provided housing for commuters to Hamilton.

⁷⁹ DP 212.

⁸⁰ DP 2814.

⁸¹ ML 9741.

⁸² DPS 9348.

⁸³ *NZ Herald* 24 October 1883 p.1.

⁸⁴ *NZ Herald* 6 December 1883 p. 3.

⁸⁵ *Waikato Times* 22 November 1884, p. 2.

⁸⁶ Kellaway, pp. 59, 191.

⁸⁷ *NZ Herald* 22 December 1884 p. 5.

⁸⁸ *NZ Herald* 22 August 1885 p. 6.

⁸⁹ Lang, p. 32.

⁹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 33.



Tauwhare Hotel, 1890's.



The Old Store, 1927-31.



Philip Te Kata, respected by Maori and Pakeha.



The Factory, 1910-11, J. Porter, Manager, in white apron.



*Left:
The Windsor-Pope
Store. 1940's.*



*Right:
Morey's Store,
1950's.*

*Below:
Tauwhare Village
1921-29
Church, Smithy,
Post Office, Store.*



Figure 143: R Lang, *Tauwhare Centennial History 1884-1984*, n.p.

Matangi

By 1901 the district had a creamery, belonging to the New Zealand Dairy Association, which was situated close to the Tamahere railway station on the Cambridge-Ruakura railway line.⁹¹ It was erected in 1900, burnt down in 1912, but was rebuilt and began producing cheese in 1923. The factory burnt down again in 1932, was rebuilt again and closed in 1945. A second cheese factory was operating at Matangi in 1917, in a building taken over from the New Zealand Packing Company. A new factory, built in 1917-19, was leased to Joseph Nathan and Company for the production of 'Glaxo' milk powder until 1936 when the NZCDC took over the factory and manufactured casein there for a short time.⁹² The factory then switched to producing condensed milk, as well as cheese. Further changes with an experimental plant saw the introduction of milk-powder production in 1965 and in 1974 the large factory was producing powder, casein and condensed milk. The factory closed in 1987 and is now occupied by several light industrial businesses.

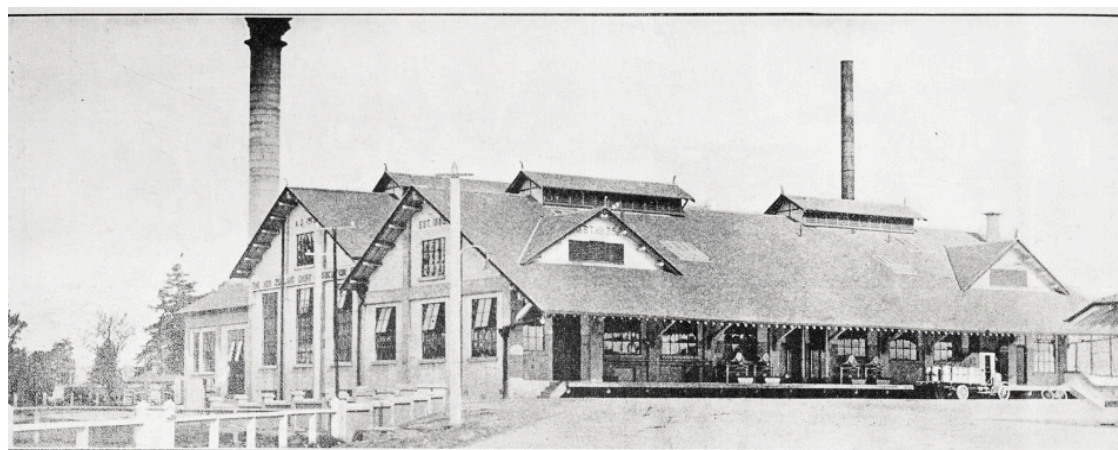


Figure 144: The new Glaxo factory at Matangi, 1919. *Auckland Weekly News* 20 November 1919, p. 38. AWNS-19191120-38-1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries.

In 1913, 1914 and 1917 land on the south-west side of the junction of Tamahere and Matangi Roads was surveyed into residential lots for the NZ Dairy Association.⁹³ Nine masonry bungalows were built for factory staff (1918). A store existed by the railway station by 1913, close to the packing factory.⁹⁴ Good Street was formed and subdivided for residential lots from 1951 or earlier. An influx of workers to the dairy factory brought with them their families. In 1917 Matangi School was established and in 1921 an additional room was added.⁹⁵

The Matangi Hall opened in September 1903 with a social and dance, which attracted 'so many ladies' from Hamilton and Cambridge that the hall was found to be too small.⁹⁶ Church services were held in the hall, as well as public meetings, gatherings of the Cadet Corps, lectures and dances. It burnt down in the 1950s.⁹⁷ St David's Anglican Church dates to 1933 and it now serves local Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian congregations.⁹⁸

Two homesteads dating from the late 1870s survive in the area: Briarley and Woodlands [aka Woodside]. Briarley is situated on Tamahere Road in a new subdivision that until recently was open farm land. When built for Herman Tinne it was the homestead for a large farm of over 1000 acres (405

⁹¹ *Cyclopedia* p. 758.

⁹² More, pp. 111-2.

⁹³ DP 8822, DP 9246, DP 12218.

⁹⁴ DP 8901.

⁹⁵ Kellaway pp 159, 169.

⁹⁶ *Waikato Argus* 9 September 1903, p. 2.

⁹⁷ More, p. 255.

⁹⁸ *New Zealand Herald* 6 February 1933, p. 8.

hectares). By April 1883 Briarley was leased to W Muir Douglas, who with his brother owned and managed the large Bruntwood estate to the south.



Figure 145: Matangi hall c. 1910. ½-117642-F, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.



Figure 146: 'Woodlands', Webster Road, Matangi. Heritage NZ.

Woodlands is on Webster Road; it was built in c.1878-79 for Charles and Jane Wood (nee Haultain). The farmhouse is believed to have been designed by Thomas Henry White of Hamilton. The 1680-hectare farm was taken over by the NZLMA in 1890. In 1913 the Woodside Land Settlement Association, a conglomerate of twelve local farmers and businessmen, purchased the property and subsequently divided it amongst its members.

Tamahere

The Tamahere district was intensively occupied and cultivated by Ngati Haua until their land was confiscated by the government in 1864. Several pa sites exist in the area, at least one being associated with Tainui leader and kingmaker Wiremu Tamihana Tarapipipi Te Waharoa. It was at Tamahere that the peace was made between the government and the Kingitanga through the agency of Tamihana. At the first meeting of the Native Land Court 15,000 acres (6,070 hectares) of land at Tamahere was returned to members of Ngati Haua, who were considered friendly to the government. The land was returned in the form of individual holdings.⁹⁹

By 1872, nearly 5000 hectares had been sold by Tamahere Maori in fee simple to Europeans.¹⁰⁰ George Graham leased a large parcel from 1865; his sons, the surveyor William Australia Graham and Samuel Graham, farmed it as a cattle station. William Graham purchased the land in 1868.¹⁰¹

Pastoral farming developed such that by January 1875 the district was said to be 'looking splendidly' with crops of wheat, barley and oats being grown by European settlers and 'grain and potatoes galore' by Maori.¹⁰² By December 1876 the Tamahere district still had 'less than a score of settlers'.¹⁰³ It was considered to have 'the most beautiful and profitable land in the Colony'.¹⁰⁴ There were several larger estates, owned by the Grahams, the Steele brothers, Barugh, Newell, Martyn, Runciman, Douglas & Co, Leslie and Crawford. These large farms were in due course subdivided into smaller farms. On the west side of the river, several of the militia grants were amalgamated and bought by Deborah Hunt and her sons in 1873 as a 350-acre farm known as the Narrows. When the bridge, without approach roads, was built across the river in 1879, William Hunt on the west and John Martyn on the east marked out the route through their paddocks so that the public could get access.¹⁰⁵



Figure 147: Tamahere School, 1886. DM Beere Collection, ½-096197-G, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

⁹⁹ Map 'Tamahere Block' 1867 (Hamilton Libraries collection HCC 832.14bje); Map 'Plan of Surveys in the Confiscated Land, Upper Waikato' 1871 Hamilton Libraries.

¹⁰⁰ 'Report from Mr James McKay Jun.', *Waikato Times* 19 August 1873 p.2

¹⁰¹ Deeds Index 2F.120, Record Book R5.947

¹⁰² *Daily Southern Cross* 5 January 1876 p.2.

¹⁰³ *Waikato Times* 5 December 1876, 12 June 1879.

¹⁰⁴ Anon. *Descriptive Handbook to the Waikato: its Condition and Resources...* Hamilton, E.M. Edgcumbe & Co. 1880 p.32.

¹⁰⁵ *Waikato Times* 8 February 1879, p.2.

A mill was erected in the 1870s at Tamahere to process Maori-grown wheat.¹⁰⁶ There was a natural landing place for the Waikato River steamers on WA Graham's land.¹⁰⁷ In 1879 a bridge built over the river provided the stimulus for development: a store, blacksmith, a hotel and a church were opened by 1883.¹⁰⁸ The two-storeyed hotel was erected in late 1880 by James Camp at the junction of the Hamilton, Cambridge and Narrows Roads, an advantage not missed in advertisements placed by the proprietor in February 1881.¹⁰⁹ Camp's Hotel burnt down in March 1885, with the deaths of two of the Camps' children. The store next door was saved.¹¹⁰

By the early 1880s the larger farms were being split up into smaller holdings.¹¹¹ By 1882 the community had grown sufficiently to warrant a school, the nearest school being at Hautapu. In September 1882 the Education Board of the District of Auckland was petitioned by community members for a school at Tamahere.¹¹² WA Graham and his wife Alice gave three acres [1.2 ha] of land to which the Board added a further two acres. Construction of the school was underway by January and completed in May 1884. The school opened with a roll of 33.¹¹³ In 1887 a teacher's residence was built on site. With the Narrows Bridge having opened, children from the western side of the river could also attend. In 1886 three Maori children enrolled, but no further Maori names occur in the early registers; some, possibly all, Maori families shifted to other areas in the 1880s.¹¹⁴ With smaller farms came a greater population density and more children; the school grew with additions to the original building and then additional buildings.

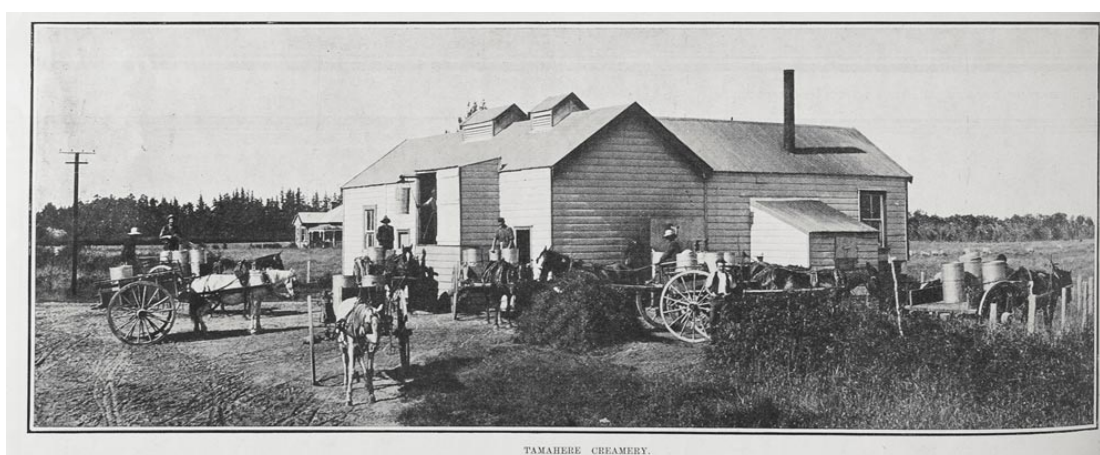


Figure 148: Tamahere Creamery. *Auckland Weekly News* 16 March 1905. AWNS-19050316-10-3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries.

Henry Reynolds established the first creamery at Tamahere, when he was still manager of the Eureka Estate. In 1901 farmer Cornelius Day owned a butter factory, situated on the Cambridge-Hamilton road, close to the road junction. In 1898, a two-storey building consisting of a store and dwelling-house with accommodation for travellers, was erected.¹¹⁵ None of these buildings survive.

¹⁰⁶ HCM Norris *Settlers in Depression*, Sydney, Halstead Press, 1964 p. 7; Alfred Main *Tamahere 1868-1940*, unpublished manuscript, 1987, Hamilton City Libraries p. 31 citing *WT* 29 July 1875 re mill burning down.

¹⁰⁷ Beer and Gascoigne pp.114, 250.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid*, pp.199, 257; Survey plan SO 3398 'Tamahere School Site' by F.H. Edgecumbe September 1883; Main p. 33.

¹⁰⁹ *Waikato Times* 15 February 1881, p. 3.

¹¹⁰ Main, p. 6.

¹¹¹ Beer and Gascoigne, p.257.

¹¹² *Waikato Times* 9 September 1882.

¹¹³ *Waikato Times* 6 May 1884 p. 2; 8 May 1884 p. 2; 13 May 1884 p. 2.

¹¹⁴ Tamahere School Admissions Register 1884-1925, Hamilton City Libraries collection MSC 44.

¹¹⁵ *Cyclopedia* p. 759.



Figure 149: St Stephen's Anglican Church, Tamahere. A McEwan, 8 December 2014.

In May 1883 the Anglican Church of St Stephen the Martyr was dedicated. The church burnt down in June 1970, but the parishioners were quick to have a replacement church built and it opened in June 1972. In 1976 a church hall was moved from Leamington to the church site, which also includes a cemetery within the grounds.¹¹⁶

By the 1970s Tamahere land was being subdivided into lifestyle blocks, a trend that has continued. Alterations to the course of the roads and the development of the Waikato Expressway have greatly altered the Tamahere landscape and the nucleus of the settlement. Several large businesses are based at Tamahere, including Johnson's House Removals, Regal Haulage and a sand quarry operated by Waikato Aggregates Ltd. On 6 September 2011 the Icepack Cool store close to the school burnt down in a spectacular fire that killed a firefighter and seriously injured six others.

¹¹⁶ http://www.ststephenstamahere.org.nz/page/Our_History/