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# ALBERT PARK

## CONSERVATION PLAN

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**AUCKLAND CITY**

March 1997



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**Auckland City, Auckland, New Zealand - Telephone 09-379-2020**

The purpose of a conservation plan is to account for the cultural significance of a place by an examination of its past history and its present condition, and to develop policies for its on-going management which will ensure that its significance is preserved. The implementation of the recommended policies is the task of the Management Plan which has been prepared in conjunction with this document.

ISBN: 0-908834-13-6



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## INTRODUCTION

Albert Park is one of Auckland's three principal central city public recreation parks, the closest to the central business district, and just one of a very extensive network of such amenities in the metropolitan region. It is, perhaps, the most formally structured of these reserves, incorporating as it does promenades and various constructed features laid out with geometrical care over a somewhat reluctant landscape. Since its design in 1881, as the result of a competition, the park has been a focus for the more passive varieties of public recreation, but has also been a setting for political rallies, musical performance and outbreaks of national fervour. The growth of New Zealand's largest university directly across the road has inevitably meant that Albert Park has become by default an informal extension of the campus.

The site, in common with the whole of the Auckland Isthmus was, prior to European settlement, extensively traversed and disputed by a large number of Maori tribal groups, and consequently has considerable traditional significance. The physical evidence of Maori association with this landscape has been entirely subsumed by the changes wrought by more than 150 years of post-contact occupation and activity.

The earliest public development of the site after the founding of the city was for defensive purposes, culminating in 1847 in the construction of Albert Barracks, a military fortification enclosed within an extensive stone wall, laid out in the polygonal fashion characteristic of military structures of the times. Within the wall, the encampment comprised some large stone buildings around which were clustered timber framed structures laid out in straight lines. The fortifications were never put to the test and the wall and the buildings were progressively dismantled over several years. Parts of the site were sold or leased for private ownership and some new roads were formed. The remnant land became the site of the present Albert Park.

The surface of the park was extensively disturbed during the Second World War by the construction of public shelters for civil defence, and a vast network of tunnels was formed well below its surface to provide air raid shelters for the residents and workers of the inner city.

The form of the Park, its specific layout and the location of its principal specimen trees were determined by the plan of James Slator, a draughtsman/architect, and William Goldie, who was a gardener in the employment of the Auckland Domains Board. They received the splendid sum of £10 for their design which was carried out quite faithfully and which survives substantially intact today. Although the basic design is unaltered, the trees and other plants which have been planted within the area of the Park have matured and have transformed the landscape of the original design. Several generations of dedicated civic gardeners have maintained this landscape, making changes in detail from time to time and adding new features not originally contemplated by the designers, but which reflect the aegis and thinking of their times.

The park now contains numerous examples of public art, and many earlier examples have been lost to vandalism. The passive recreation prescribed by statute for the site has in recent times occasionally been overcome by large public gatherings for musical performance, political protest and student extroversion.

All this has threatened the integrity of the Park as an example of a Victorian cultivated landscape. The principal features of the park, both natural and constructed, reflect the travails of age and abuse. It is appropriate to take stock of the asset, to reflect on its intrinsic character and cultural significance, and to develop achievable strategies which will ensure that those qualities and elements of the place which are central to that significance are preserved through careful management over time. Remarkably, Albert Park has not been recognised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust as an "historic place" under the *Historic Places Act 1993*, although three memorial statues and two buildings are individually registered under the Act.

This document is a conservation plan. It sets out to describe the history of the site, the provenance of the park itself and its cultural value to Auckland City and the country. This is achieved by archival research in both the written and pictorial record, and through oral history where available. The historical account is necessarily discursive and inclusive, and makes extensive use of quotations from archival material in order to enrich the narrative and explain contemporaneous concerns. From this inquiry and from investigation of the site itself, an assessment is made of the contribution which each element of the place makes to its overall significance. This enables the identification of appropriate policies aimed at *conserving* those elements in such a way as to ensure that the significance of the park. The manner in which such policies should be implemented is a further study. This has been carried out for Albert Park in a *Management Plan*, commissioned simultaneously with this document. The two documents may be read together or separately but each refers to the other for validation of its central recommendations.

## HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

### TRADITIONAL SETTLEMENT

The isthmus of Tamaki-makau-rau has, by its geographical location between two major sheltered harbours, always been a place of strategic importance in human affairs. For traditional Maori society, the harbours were a source of food, and a natural focus of regional waterborne transport. Portaging of canoes was common between the harbours and the limited land area of the isthmus was frequently traversed by itinerant groups as well as those more permanently settled in the region. There are fifty known sites of settlement on the isthmus and there is history of frequent dispute over the territory. Key defensive sites were established on the many volcanic cones which are a feature of the geology of the area. The site of present day Albert Park is a ridge known traditionally as Rangipuke.

Little is known in detail about traditional occupation of the valley which evolved as the centre of European settlement in the new colony, and all physical evidence has been obliterated by subsequent development. Six settlement sites have been identified, including Te Horotiu Pa which occupied the site of the High Court. This village covered around 1.5 hectares and accommodated about 360 people.<sup>1</sup> All the settlements in the Queen Street Valley were unoccupied by the time of European settlement. The area was, as one observer noted, "a vast expanse of undulating country mostly covered with fern, Manuka and scrub; several volcanic cones in sight and near the shore valleys and ravines filled with native trees and Pohutukawa. There was not a sign of human habitation."<sup>2</sup>



It is not, therefore, clear at present what traditional values may be attached to the site on the east ridge which is now known as Albert Park. No detailed archaeological investigation carried out to date has provided a record of traditional settlement or cultivation although early European eye-witness accounts speak of potatoes being grown on the site of old Government House. Such archaeological investigation as has been carried out has focussed on the early military history of the site.



Figure 1 Soldiers of the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment outside the Albert Barracks, n.d., Danbury Album, p.9, AIM C2887

## MILITARY ENCAMPMENT

Legal title to the site of Auckland was established by the Colonial Government in 1841 and a new city was planned on the grand scale by the acting Surveyor-General, Felton Mathew. This plan reflected the then current preoccupation with formal geometries in the layout of new towns and the redesign of existing communities. While the surveyor had “consulted the peculiar character and formation of the ground”,<sup>3</sup> his plan had rather more to do with the formation of heroic vistas and gracious open spaces on a flat plain than with the “peculiar character” of Auckland’s volcanic cones. [fig.2] Major squares or parks were proposed on the ridges which flanked the Queen Street valley. These open spaces did not eventuate but the streets which have formed the basis of modern Auckland were laid out according to the plan.

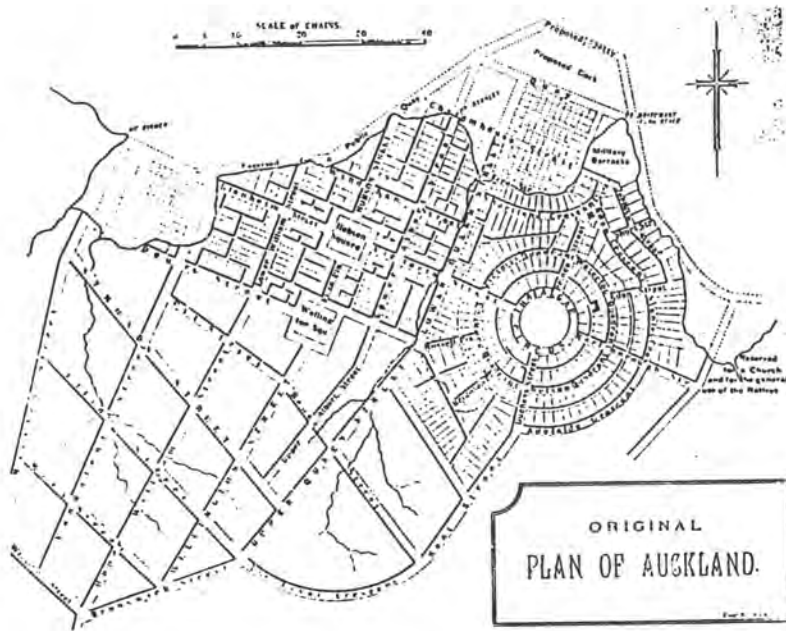


figure 2 Felton Mathew's Plan of Auckland, redrawn to show later harbour reclamation in Commercial Bay

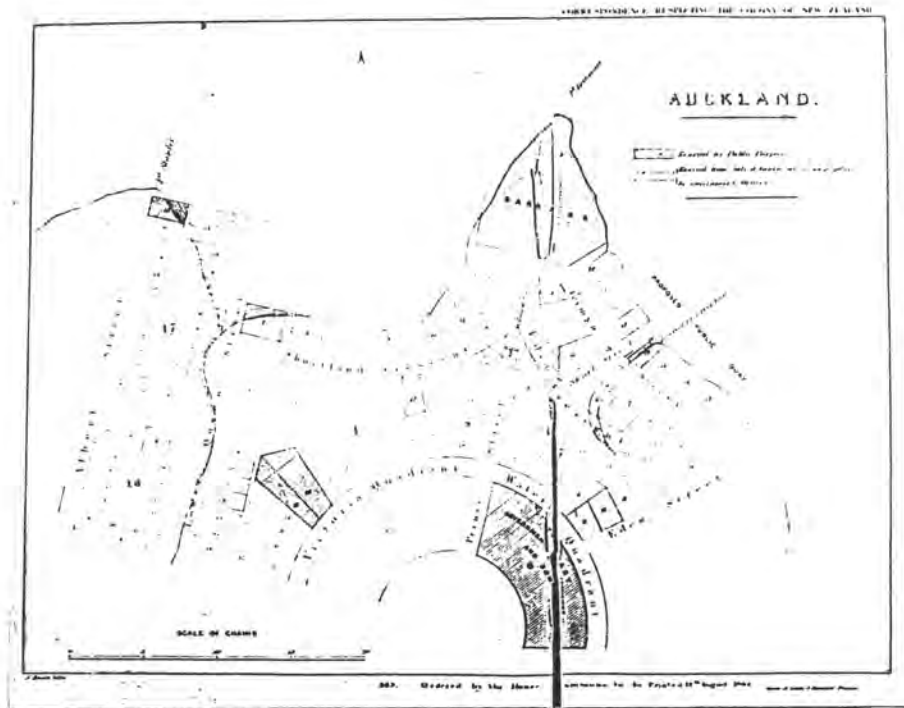


figure 3 Plan of 1848-49 showing barracks site at Britomart Point

A major feature of the design was a “circus” or circular open space to be located on the site of what is now Albert Park. This was to be surrounded by building allotments laid out in concentric streets and linked to other important squares by principal thoroughfares with names redolent of the recent military achievements of Britain - Trafalgar, Blenheim, Waterloo - and of British royalty or nobility - Queen, Victoria, Albert, Prince, Duchess etc. Within five years of the foundation of Auckland, the ridge to the east of Queen Street was designated instead as a site for a military fortification, initially on the lower, northern, slopes, on what was known as Britomart Point. [fig.3]

In the early 1840s, the activities of Hone Heke and the comparative inadequacy of the Fort Britomart garrison were matters for considerable apprehension within the European community.<sup>4</sup> Following a successful campaign in the North in 1846, Governor Grey turned his attention to the defences of Auckland and ordered the construction of a new barracks further up the hill above Fort Britomart, which was subsequently reduced in the 1870s to provide fill for reclamation in the rapidly expanding commercial area along the edge of Auckland's Waitemata Harbour.

A new site had been apportioned to the Ordnance Department in 1845 for the erection of permanent barracks for a large military force on Albert Hill to the west of Queen Street.<sup>5</sup> On the site of the Albert barracks, to the east of Queen Street, construction was begun in late 1846 or early 1847, using basalt from the quarry at Mount Eden, and continued until completion around 1852. [fig.4] Construction of various barrack facilities continued for a further decade, resulting in the appearance on the site of buildings, wells and walls, much of this work being undertaken by Maori labour. [fig.5] In July 1856, a cricket ground was constructed in the Albert Barracks grounds by the Military Cricket Club. Games between the various sporting clubs and the military forces became popular entertainment.

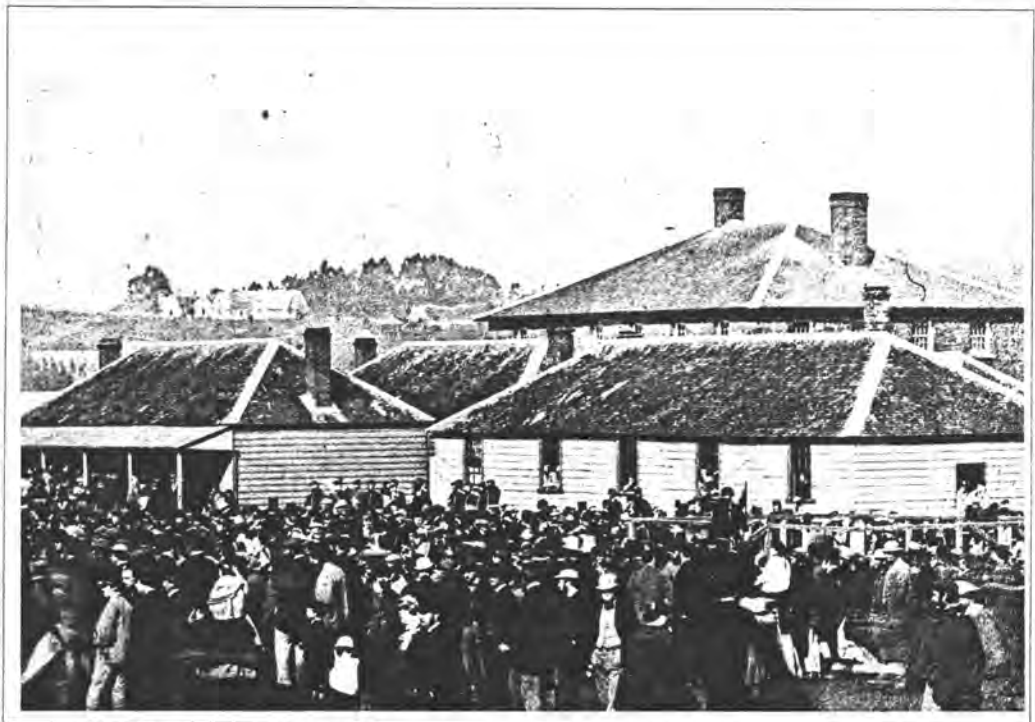


Figure 4 Wooden and stone barracks buildings, Albert barracks, ca.1860s, APL 422



Figure5 Plan of the Albert Barracks superimposed over the present day Albert Park and adjacent streets



Figure 6 Barracks wall, north west corner, AIM C7327

In April 1860, the seven hundred men of the 65th Regiment arrived at Albert Barracks, having marched from Onehunga in torrential rain, to find that they were to be accommodated for winter in small, soaking wet Bell tents, pitched on a ground which soon became a quagmire. The conditions attracted much public sympathy, and it was noted that “the total want of any requisite provision for their lodgement is, we may further state, eliciting a feeling of general reprobation.”<sup>6</sup> The threat of hostile action in Auckland had receded by the 1860s and the fortification was never tested against a hostile force.



Figure 7 Men of the 58th Regiment at the Albert Barracks, ca.1850, *Weekly News*, 15 January, 1907, AIM C6797

Other, more mundane concerns, such as military hygiene, occupied the public mind, leading to an announcement in *The New Zealander* in early 1865 that "we have been requested to state that there is a bathroom in the barracks, but that it was for some time out of use. Orders have now been given that the room be prepared for the use of the men for ablution purposes. "Bathing parades, we are told, are enforced by general orders."<sup>7</sup>

In 1865, the Auckland Improvement Commissioners resolved that "the ground at present occupied by the Albert Barracks will become available for general building purposes, as a part of the town site; they trust that the present Barrack Ground may be made available for such purposes, as soon as may be practicable."<sup>8</sup> Within 2 years, the garrison at the Barracks was reduced in number, and in 1867, public thoroughfare through the Albert Barracks was temporarily closed due to the lack of sufficient guards to patrol the gates and magazine, and because "improper characters were able to conceal themselves about the buildings until the gates were closed, and gave a great deal of trouble afterwards."<sup>9</sup> By 1868, the Barracks were again open to the public, subject to regulations, and public and Military cricket matches were regularly held within the grounds, "where our boys and men may play a game of cricket or football - in fact, that great enemy to drunkenness and dissipation, a large public recreation ground..."<sup>10</sup>

Regulations, "relative to the admission of the public to the Albert Barracks" were published in February of 1868, reminding the public that these were of long standing, and reading as follows:

1. Any sober, well conducted person may pass through the barrack-field, direct from gate to gate, when the gates are open.
2. Civilians, when passing through, are required to abstain from smoking tobacco, especially near the powder-magazine ; to walk either on the footpaths or on the road, and not to loiter.
3. They are not permitted to ride or drive through the barrack-field, unless they have to transact official business at the barracks.
4. Nor is the carrying through of any bulky materials, or of merchandise, furniture, or other burdens, allowed.

"Any person regarding [the regulations] as vexatious ought to consider that the land within the barrack enclosure is freehold property, over which the public has no right-of-way; in proof of which may be cited the fact that it is one of the prescribed duties of the Officer Commanding Royal Engineers to cause the gates to be formally closed against the public for 24 hours once a year."<sup>11</sup>

With the removal of the seat of government to Wellington in 1865, and in view of the unwonted cost of maintaining a substantial but idle force on the site, a decision was taken to abandon the barracks in 1870. It was decided that the wall and redundant barracks should be demolished, and that a new use should be found for the vacant site.

## CREATION OF A PUBLIC PARK

While the Albert Barracks site was already popular in the 1860s for more energetic pursuits such as the cricket and, occasionally, the exercise of horses, as well as for military parades, the city fathers had a keen sense of the democratic appeal of a site laid out in an ordered manner for more leisurely activities. The incorporation of public open space in the planning of Victorian cities was both a civic duty and as an act of indulgence by those citizens whose status recommended them to public office. At a time when the suburbs of Auckland extended only as far as the ridges of Parnell and Ponsonby, and Mount Eden and Epsom to the south, the attraction of a public recreation ground within minutes of the central business district was obvious to all. The parks promised in Felton Mathew's plan had not materialised, except for a "Botanic garden" established beyond the boundary of the plan, near ponds in what was to become the Auckland Domain.

During 1870, the popular sentiment for a public park regularly surfaced in the press, in letters to the Editor:

"A Public Park for Auckland

"...Then we have the cemeteries, and the numbers that are at times found there, despite the incongruity of place are a testimony to the desire that the citizen of Auckland has for such refreshment within easy access. But if we want a striking proof of this desire, we have only to see the thousands promenading on the Queen-street Wharf. There in spite of the necessity of braving such a noxious odour as perhaps no civilised city can parallel, we find all Auckland habitually resorting to such an extent that "walking on the wharf" has become an acknowledged institution...."<sup>12</sup>

In further correspondence, it was noted with appreciation that, the result of "our worthy Governor's quiet negotiation with the home authorities in procuring for this province the site of the Albert Barracks was] a most welcome piece of intelligence." The correspondent recommended that the site be made into a park, "to which the prefix of the Governor's name might be attached" as a place of "healthy enjoyment, to which the dwellers in the lower part of the town may resort and breathe [sic] the fresh air of heaven."<sup>13</sup>

Although the British War Office was prepared to hand over the 19 acres, they advertised for sale a crucial four acres that contained the powder magazine (sited where the cannon now stand), in an effort to recoup its building cost. This advertisement galvanised Auckland into action. A spirited campaign to bar the sale had Auckland's first mayor, Phillip Aaron Philips, appealing to the defence minister. He in turn won the support of the governor Sir George Bowen (now remembered by Bowen Avenue). His Excellency's intervention persuaded the War Office to grudgingly accept token compensation.

According to the *Herald*, the site of Albert Barracks had been divided into allotments to be sold by the Imperial Government. A proposal was made at Council by Mr Philips, who suggested that an address should be presented to the Superintendent, requesting him to purchase the allotments for the Province. The *Weekly News* indicated in late January 1870 that the Albert Barracks and Reserve had been ceded or gifted to the Province by the Imperial Government. Some controversy arose as to whether the sites should then be sold to private purchasers or set apart as a public park.

The *Herald* and the *Weekly News* both supported the latter position, citing the proximity of the Barracks site to the city, compared to that of the Domain which was outside city bounds, as the main reason for retaining it as a public park. The *Weekly News* described the site as, "Situated on the highest point within the city's bounds, commanding a panorama of unsurpassed beauty, lifted above the city's din and dust and poisonous odours."<sup>14</sup>

With the imminent departure of the last Imperial Regiment, many ideas for the use of the site were proposed in public and in private. It was suggested that the site of the Albert Barracks would most likely be formally abandoned, and "given over to the General Government for the Province, along with the reserves and allotments, which latter have fortunately been withdrawn from sale until the wish regarding their disposal has been learned from the Imperial authorities."<sup>15</sup> The correspondent recommended that the periphery of the site be leased for building purposes, in order to generate income for charitable trusts which might also be housed on the site, such as the Grammar School, Hospital, and possibly a museum. The Provincial Secretary was quoted as suggesting that the Superintendent had an idea that the Provincial Government Offices might be removed to the site. The editor of the *Herald* suggested that the Grammar School might also be accommodated on the site, and that the Grammar School and the High School might be amalgamated into one school.

By April 1870, the work of demolition in the Albert Barracks was "going on apace", and in August, The Hon. Member for Mangonui, Mr Thomas B. Gillies, proposed to the Colonial Government that the land on which Albert Barracks was situated "should be handed over in trust, for purposes agreed upon between the Colonial Government and the Provincial Government."<sup>16</sup> At the same time, Gillies said, he would wish to see "the central portion of the ground kept as a place of public recreation ... it should be fenced in and beautified, and kept in order. He also suggested that certain of the considerable number of large buildings be used as a Hospital, a Grammar School and Provincial Government Offices. He emphasised the need to "take some practical action in this matter without delay", as the site and its buildings were already beginning to deteriorate because they were now unoccupied and neglected.<sup>17</sup>

The Hon. Member for Franklin, Colonel Haultain, hoped that all the land would be set aside for educational purposes. He objected to "any large portion of the Albert Barrack ground being set apart as a place for public recreation", as there was already in the immediate neighbourhood, "a large piece of ground reserved for the purposes of recreation."

In November, a motion was put forward to the Provincial Council by Dr Stratford that the Governor be asked to hand over Albert Barracks and the adjacent land to the Superintendent of the Province of Auckland, "or a properly constituted Commission appointed for that purpose, to see the said land laid out as a handsome square, to be planted as a public garden, surrounded by town allotments; and that all the remaining portions of the aforesaid land, amounting to some sixty acres, more or less, be surveyed into town lots, with properly formed streets, constituting, as it now does, a portion of the City of Auckland..." Dr Nicholson moved as an amendment that "a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report on the best means of disposing of the land occupied by Fort Britomart, the Albert Barracks, and the land contiguous thereto under the control of the Colonial Government..." This was resolved in the affirmative, the members of the committee being: Mr Boylan, Mr Cadman, Captain Freer, Mr Hamlin, Mr Hill, Mr Hurst, Mr Macready, Mr Philips, Mr Reyburn, Dr Stratford, Mr Swanson, Mr Taylor, and the Mover [Dr Nicholson].<sup>18</sup>



At a meeting of the Auckland Institute in November, Mr R.W. Dyson presented a paper on "Proposed Street Improvement, and Disposal of the Albert Barracks as the Lungs of Auckland", in which he recommends that "the land should be utilised by the construction of a boulevard, or wide street, running from Shortland Street to the Government Domain." Along this boulevard, he proposed that trees should be planted and that houses should be erected, which would each form "a portion of one grand architectural design, such as is to be seen in Regent Street, London, the Boulevards of Paris, and in most of the new neighbourhoods of London, such as Belgravia, Tiburnia, etc."<sup>19</sup>

An application was received by Council from the Grammar School Commission to use one of the buildings within the Albert Barracks known as the 'Grenadier Barrack' as a Grammar School.

The committee appointed to consider the ultimate disposal of Albert Barrack and Fort Britomart delivered its report to the Provincial Council on 21 November, recommending that; "the Albert Barracks, together with the land surrounding it, as delineated on the plan, be placed in trust as an endowment for the City of Auckland; and that the City authorities be empowered to lease such land, or so much as may be required, to the Harbour Board Commissioners, for the purpose of raising a revenue for dock purposes. The length of the lease not to exceed [not stated] years, and the rent to be nominal - John R. Nicholson, Chairman."<sup>20</sup>

With remarkable alacrity, the Provincial Council resolved that "the Britomart and Albert Barracks sites should be handed over to the Harbour Board Commissioners, provided that one-half of the Albert Barracks site be reserved as a public park and place of recreation and the residue thereof be let or otherwise disposed of by the Harbour Commissioners according to plans and conditions as to streets, and the style and character of buildings to be erected, as well as other necessary matters, to be approved of this Council."<sup>21</sup> [fig.7]

The *Auckland Military Reserves Act* of 1871<sup>22</sup> scheduled 23 acres under *The Public Domains Act 1860*, and the Auckland Domain Board, representing Central Government, administered the site during 1871 until about December 1872, when the newly established Auckland Improvement Commissioners set up by the Provincial Government took control. The Provincial Government was itself abolished in 1877. In January, the disposal of the Albert Barracks Reserve was still a "subject of fruitful speculation."<sup>23</sup> The solution was still being debated in the Provincial Council where Mr O'Rorke submitted a plan of arrangement and public works, which was referred to a select committee. The committee recommended that the planning of the Park be "given over to the architects and general designers, with a reward for the best arrangement."<sup>23</sup>

A member of the Select Committee, S.J. Stratford, wrote to the editor of the *Daily Southern Cross*, on 1 February explaining Council's delay in deciding what to do with the Albert Barrack Reserve. He pointed out that the Council was not able to dispose of the site until it had paid the Imperial Government for the allotments which it was obliged to purchase from private owners when the Barracks was first built. The matter was referred to the Superintendent and his executive, who responded by sending down a message to the Council asking that three acres of this land be set aside for a Grammar School and playground.

A counter-proposition was put forward by Mr O'Rorke, asking to have the land handed over to the Domain Board. This was then referred to Albert Barrack Reserve Committee No.2, but was not entertained by them. A resolution was instead adopted, "praying his Honor the Superintendent to offer a reward of one hundred pounds for competitive designs - laying out the land into building allotments; describing the character of the buildings to be erected upon them, and the style of the architectural designs to be adopted, so as to beautify the city and make it worthy of being the commercial capital of New Zealand" and that "the necessary steps to accomplish this end be taken without delay, so that the plans and suggestions may be ready to be laid before the Colonial Government at the next meeting of Parliament, declaring that the money should be advanced out of the Colonial Treasury, and remain as a first charge upon the property."<sup>24</sup>

The *Daily Southern Cross* reflected the continuing public interest in the debate in its leader of 15 February, noting that :

"The want of a public garden as a scene of recreation is much felt by residents in this part of the town, and we are convinced that any concession made by the Government, in the shape of a grant of land, would be reciprocated by a universal endeavor to aid in this work of improvement, and embellishment of the locality. There are many persons able and willing not only to come forward with subscriptions, but ready to give their time and experience in laying out and planting the grounds.

"our western neighbors...will have a very great tendency to improve the marketable value to all properties situated in this part of our city, which in a great measure owe their present depressed state to a false policy of the Government in cutting up the endowments and letting them on leases for twenty one years without making any stipulation as to the architectural features of the houses erected thereon. To the serious detriment of the neighborhood and the injury of those whose capital was invested in this quarter, dwellings representing mere wooden shanties have been the fruits of this reckless disregard of the public interest. Fortunately, however, these leases are more than half expired, and under existing circumstances their value at the present time is almost nil."<sup>25</sup>

The demolition so far had been limited to the wooden buildings of the barracks, including the dormitories of men quarters and married quarters. One observer noted that while "the old buildings [were] fast disappearing ... new and substantial ones [were] being erected. Already five edifices, strong and commodious, are on the eve of completion, and the sound of carpenter's hammers can be heard all day throughout the barracks."<sup>26</sup> It is not clear what new buildings were being erected, but these may have been houses on newly created leasehold titles in the newly formed Princes Street.

The *Weekly Herald* also remarked how "Bit by bit the wooden buildings in the interior of the Albert Barracks are disappearing. Yesterday a number of men were employed pulling down some of the few remaining buildings on the eastern side, near the site of the old Music Hall [Choral Hall]. What a contrast the deserted green now presents to the time when the ground was alive with hundreds, nay, thousands, of armed men; when the air resounded with the clash of martial music, and when every inch of ground not required as a parade ground was occupied by the residences of soldiers and their wives."<sup>27</sup> The Barracks site, now public land, began to fulfill the expectations of so many of the correspondents to the local newspapers.

Tenders were called in April for "the erection of a Grand Stand in the Albert Barracks for the Easter Monday and Tuesday Sports, 'with privilege of charging admission to same, and right of Erection of Four Booths for the sale of all things with the exception of wine, beer and spirits, will be received up to Monday, 3rd April, at 9pm, by Mr Charles Hillsden, at the Occidental Hotel."<sup>28</sup> Further tenders were called 3 days later for "persons willing to contract to make certain Repairs and Alterations required in the Stone Building, Albert Barracks, about to be used as a Grammar School."<sup>29</sup>

The action of the Provincial Council in handing over a substantial part of the Barracks site to the Harbour Commissioners was a further source of public dismay and further confused the possible future use of the site. The evident general enthusiasm for a recreation ground was tempered by strong opinion that the land should be made over for educational purposes.

Editorials in two of the city's newspapers noted a "suppressed feeling of dissatisfaction that the claims of a "people's park" [sic] should have been subordinated to those of the Harbour Trust" and that even yet, "considerable uncertainty hangs around the ultimate disposal of the grounds." It was lamented that the whole reserve was not to be permanently allocated to the Grammar School.<sup>30</sup> People living outside the city were unhappy that central government property should be handed over to the Provincial Government which, according to Mr Albin Martin would be the same as "giving it to the people of Queen Street."<sup>31</sup>

In the meantime, the public was making good use of the opportunities offered by a large inner city expanse of open ground:

"At the Albert Barracks yesterday afternoon nearly a thousand people assembled to witness the usual pedestrian exercises by the competitors at the ensuing champion sports. About nine amateurs stripped and took several spins around the course. Today there will no doubt be more excitement than has yet been displayed, as it will be the last opportunity for practice."<sup>32</sup>

Editorial comment noted that, in recent years there had been "a great neglect of the principles at once of health and of common sense", and trusted that

"...the games which have attracted such crowds of spectators, will prove to have been but the first of a series, and that we shall see established in our midst a systematic effort for the general promotion by physical exercises of that characteristic of trued manhood, the 'mens sana in corpore sano'."

At other times, it appears that the site was closed to the public, and the editor of the *Daily Southern Cross* criticised the fact that the Albert Barracks reserve was closed to the public while its fate was being decided. The Mayor had recently suggested to the Borough Council that it should be re-opened, and the editor trusted "that his Worship will press his suggestion, and embody it in action."<sup>33</sup> In reply, the Mayor informed the *Southern Cross* that "no obstacles will be placed in the way of the public having the utmost enjoyment of the reserve, provided that proper measures are taken to prevent the entry of cattle into the enclosure."<sup>34</sup> The paper presumed from this that "the obnoxious chains and bolts will be removed on the conditions specified." Further progress toward making the site more accessible to the public resulted in a committee consisting of the Mayor, Councillors Tonks, Hampton, and Smart being appointed to "make arrangements for placing seats etc. within the Albert Barracks, at a cost not exceeding £30" in order to facilitate public recreational use of the reserve.<sup>35</sup>

Major Tisdall responded to a letter from the Mayor regarding the opening of Albert Barracks to the public, saying that he would be happy to remove the chains preventing entry if turnstiles were erected to keep cattle out of the enclosure. Councillor Tonks said in Council that "there must surely be some mistake about Major Tisdall's letter, when it referred to the chains as keeping out cattle. He understood the half-dozen horses or so that were grazing there were the property of Major Tisdall. There were besides some 30 goats quietly feeding there, which he believed belonged to the people living in the Barracks."<sup>36</sup>

Now that the site was under the control of the Provincial Government (except for the area handed over to the Harbour Board), the Borough Council began agitating for "immediate action on the subject, as if they did not agitate they would likely lose every claim to the Barracks."<sup>37</sup> Mr Macready informed Council that the Albert Barracks would not be handed over in the meantime to either the Council or the Harbour Board and that he had seen a letter in the Harbour Board Office from his Honor the Superintendent in reference to this matter. On the motion of Councillor Isaacs it was resolved by the Borough Council, "that a petition be forwarded to the Assembly praying that the Albert Barracks be handed over to the Borough for the purpose of a public recreation ground." Both the Provincial and Borough Councils wished the Barracks reserve to be handed over to their control. The editor of the *Southern Cross* noted that

"The object of both of them [was] the benefit of the community, but they look at this object from separate points of view. There is much to be said on either side, and until the Legislature interposes and definitely settles the question, it will continue to excite considerable interest. It would be well, however, if the decision of the Provincial Council were accepted as the expression of public opinion with reference to the reserve. There cannot be a question as to the wisdom of having a place of public recreation so near the centre of the city .... But the wants of our Harbour cannot be ignored, and, in the absence of sufficient other endowments, the gift of a portion of the Albert Barracks reserve, recommended by the Provincial Council, becomes a necessity."<sup>38</sup>

A petition to the Government was proposed to place the Barracks reserve under the care of the Municipal Corporation [Borough Council] instead of a Domain Board, as the Council was more readily influenced by public opinion than "a Board such as those constituted under the Public Domains Act."<sup>39</sup> The Council had already acted in the public interest by installing seats for the convenience of the citizens, before the intention of the Government with regard to the reserve was known. The petition was transmitted to Wellington, having been numerously signed. The editor of the *Southern Cross* considered this a good thing, as "the handing over of this reserve to the present Domain Board would, beyond doubt, prove exceedingly distasteful to citizens."<sup>40</sup> In the meantime, the Auckland Horticultural Society held its first exhibition for the season in the Albert Barracks on Wednesday, 15 November 1871.

While the men of the city rejoiced in the opportunity to pursue their favourite sport, it was becoming clear that the Albert Barracks was no longer a suitable place to play cricket, and that a more suitable place must be set aside if the barracks were to be used as a promenade by the public. Complaints had been received from ladies, "who have taken children into the ground for amusement and fresh air, respecting the danger that arises from the cricket balls flying about, urged by the vigorous strokes of the batsmen."<sup>41</sup>

Finally, on 21 November 1871, The Mayor of Auckland "... intimated that, although they had not succeeded in obtaining possession of the Albert Barracks, it had been set apart as a recreation ground for the city, the object the Council had in view in memorialising the Government on the subject." It would probably be controlled by the Domain Board, but the Mayor had spoken with Mr Swanson M.H.R., who informed him that the Board would "be greatly changed in its constitution, and possibly some members of the City Council might be placed upon the Board ... The disinclination of the Government to place the reserve under the control of council was, he thought, attributable to an unwillingness to part with the reserve by making it permanently a city endowment."<sup>42</sup> While one of the Barracks buildings which had survived the first wave of demolitions was destroyed by fire, others were converted to other purposes:

"The alterations which have been going on for some time past in that large building in the Albert Barracks, near the back gate, are nearly completed. From being barracks for a portion of the Armed Constabulary, it is now converted into a series of offices for the Public Works Department."<sup>43</sup>

Several of the buildings within the Barracks were being repaired and altered to serve immigration purposes. "The different batches of immigrants as they arrive here are to be provided with at least house accommodation in the many buildings in the Barracks, for a sufficient time after their arrival, until they have time to look about them ... The large building which was formerly used as a hospital, when the Imperial Troops were quartered here, is we understand to be set apart for the use of single females who may arrive. When the different buildings are put into repair, the appearance of the Barrack-square will be considerably enhanced."<sup>44</sup>

In May 1872, a valuable piece of land of about 28 acres outside the Barrack wall was made over to the province by an Act of the General Assembly. An attempt had been made by the Provincial Council the previous December to organise a Board of Commissioners, for the purpose of dealing with the property under the *Albert Barrack Reserve Act, 1871*; but this Act was disallowed subsequently by the Superintendent. The question of the disposal of that part of the Military Reserve was deferred for an indefinite period. It was widely felt that an effort should be made to induce the Colonial Government to hand over the management of the ground inside the Barrack wall to a Board appointed by the Provincial Council, in order to secure uniformity of design in laying out the entire property.

In September, at a meeting of the Domain Board, Mr Philips moved that the permission of the Government should be obtained to "allow the Board to take down a portion of the barrack-wall in order that Wellesley-street might be continued to Symonds-street." This was thought premature, and the motion was withdrawn, with a sub-committee appointed for the purpose of laying out the whole of the military reserves, and to prepare a bill for this purpose. The Agricultural Society was granted permission to hold a cattle show in the Barrack grounds, and an application to set apart a piece of ground for quoit-playing was also granted.<sup>45</sup> The appointed sub-committee brought up a report at the following meeting, which was subsequently adopted, requesting that a bill should be solicited from the General Assembly placing the management and administration of the military reserves, both outside and inside the barrack walls, in one official body, with power to form roads etc., and to sell or lease lands abutting on a road, and that not less than 15 acres should be left for recreation grounds.

The Superintendent of the Province, Mr O'Rorke proposed to repeal the *Auckland Military Reserves Act 1871*, so far as it related to

"all that parcel of land within the city of Auckland bounded towards the south-east by Symonds-street; towards the north-east, and afterwards the east, by Government House grounds; towards the north and north-west by a line across Princes-street and by Victoria Quadrant towards the west by Coburg-street; again, towards the north by Wellesley-street, and again towards the west by Barrack-street; towards the south-west by lands heretofore granted, and by Abercrombie-street."

It was proposed that the land within these boundaries would be declared Crown land, and made subject to the provisions of the bill when it became law. It was also proposed to form a Board of Commissioners, to be called the Auckland Improvement Commissioners, who were to manage and dispose of the land, lay it out, apply the moneys that may from time to time come into the hands of the Commissioners, form streets, approaches etc. An area of 15 acres was to be inalienably set apart by the Commissioners as a "ground for recreation and amusement." Allotments were to be laid off and let by public auction on leases from 30 to 99 years. The bill was passed, and became the *Auckland Improvement Act 1872*. The members of the Auckland Improvement Commission were: P A Philips (chair), His Worship the Mayor, H.H. Lusk, F. D. Fenton, T. Macready, T. Heale, J.M. Clark and S. Jones.

## THE DESIGN OF ALBERT PARK

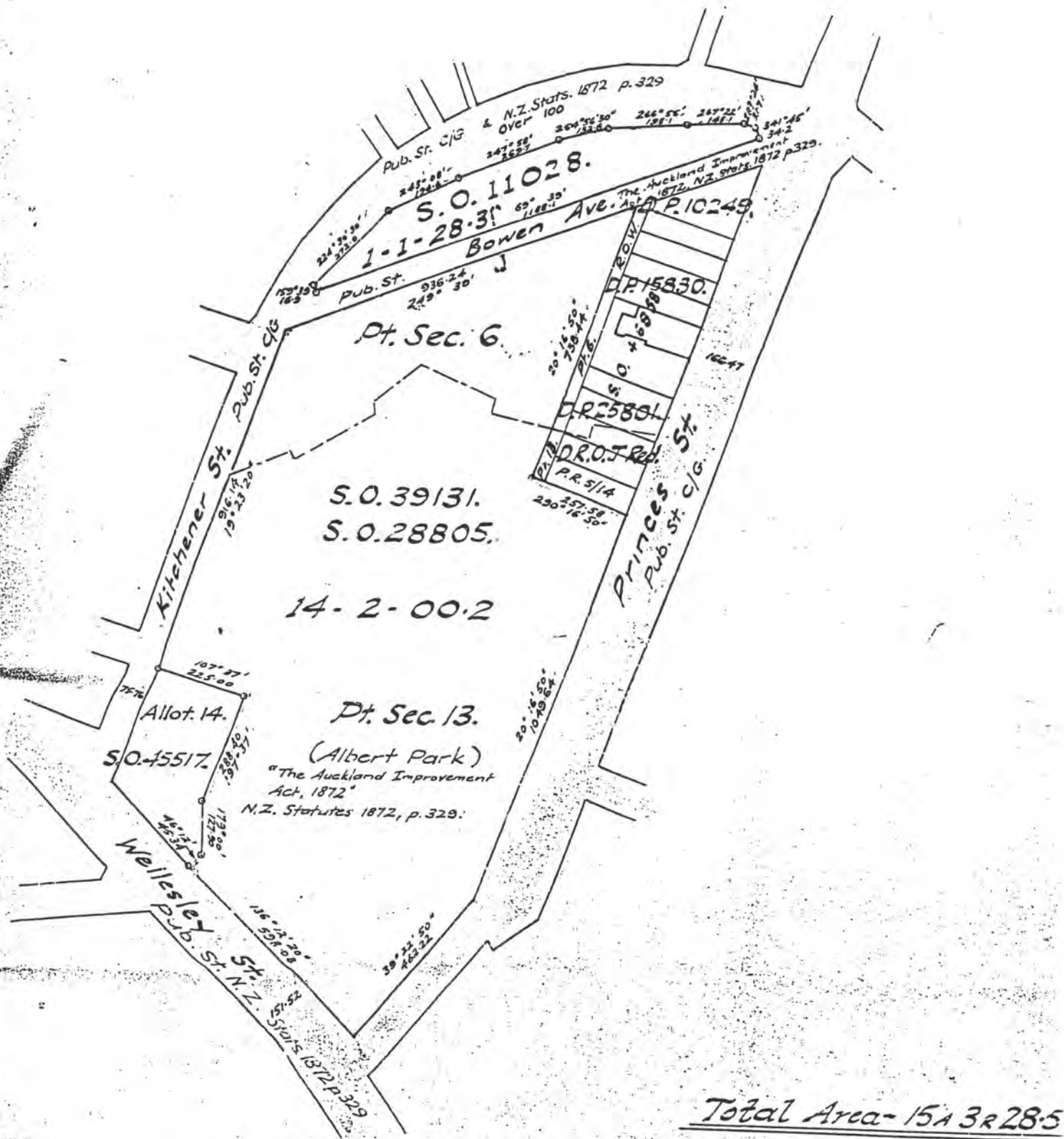
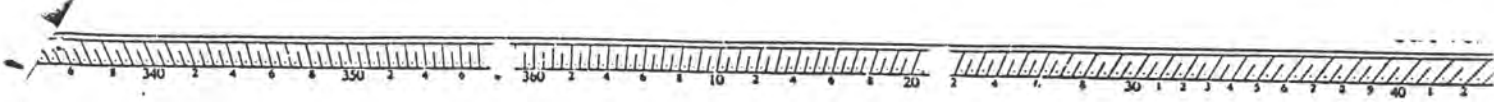
**B**y December 1872, the Commissioners had decided to obtain proposals for transforming the former Barracks ground into a public park. An advertisement was placed in the *Daily Southern Cross* advising the public that:

"A Premium of £30 is hereby offered for the best plan and sections for laying out the Albert Barracks Reserve, in accordance with the Auckland Improvement act, 1872. Plans to be deposited at the Superintendents's Office on or before Wednesday, the 15 January, 1873, in sealed envelopes and with distinctive mottoes ... Thomas B Gillies, Chairman of Commissioners."<sup>46</sup>

In an editorial comment, the paper noted with satisfaction that "The Commissioners have ... acted wisely in leaving the competitors to the free use of their own taste and judgment, untrammelled by specific directions or limitations of any kind whatever as to the mode in which the ground should be laid out."<sup>47</sup> In a gesture of vicarious magnanimity, the paper further recommended that, when the Improvement Committee began to lay out the barrack ground, they should set apart "an eligible piece of ground for a Masonic Hall on condition that a suitable building were erected thereon by the brotherhood. The Masons are a very large and influential body in Auckland, and it is somewhat surprising that as yet they have no Masonic Hall."<sup>48</sup>

In response to the request for plans,

"Several designs and plans for laying out the streets and utilising the reserve were laid before the Board, with the distinguishing mottoes "Au placet," "Mahomet," "Rus in Urbe," and "Floreat Auckland." - A select committee, consisting of Messrs Macready, Heale, Fenton, Clark, and Jones were appointed to go over the plans, and report to the next meeting. "Au placet" design provided for street [sic] from Princes-street to



Plan of  
Pts. Secs. 6 & 13, City of Auckland.

Block & District Block VIII, Rangitoto S.D.  
 District North Auckland Local Body Auckland City Council  
 2 chains & 1 inch. Surveyed by compiled by J.G. Kirby Date May 1969

I, J.G. Kirby, Registered Surveyor and holder of an annual practicing certificate, hereby certify that this plan has been made by me; that both plan and survey are correct and have been made in accordance with the regulations under the Surveyors Act, 1938

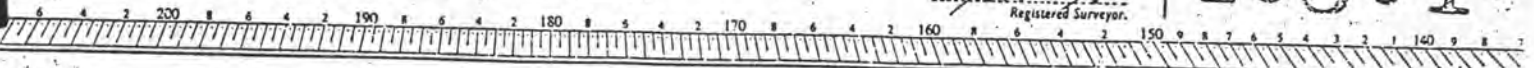
at Auckland this 25th day of May 1969

J.G. Kirby  
Registered Surveyor.

Approved for parliamentary purposes only

A. Heist  
Chief Surveyor 6/8/69

This space reserved for plan numbers  
**46301**



Symonds-street, with communication to various points in Victoria Quadrant, with gardens, walks, ornamental grounds, flag-staff, fire engine-house, racket court, gymnasium, &c. That of "Mahomet" was somewhat the same, but rather less of it but provided for a statue of the Mayor in the centre. "Rus in Urbe" was said to be the only plan which dealt with the ground as the Commissioners had it; the others dealt with ground, some of which was not the Board's property. The plan of "Floreat" resembled to a great extent that of "Placet," but being rather less elaborate. The main feature in all appeared pretty much the same. It will be for the Board to decide on the report of the committee which is entitled to the £30 premium.<sup>749</sup>

At a meeting of the Commissioners, a letter was read from the Colonial Secretary, asking that the police be allowed to remain in their present quarters until the provincial authorities can find suitable accommodation. The Board resolved to reply that the police would not be disturbed until the ground was required, but it is anticipated the property would be required forthwith. An application was received to hold an industrial exhibition in one of the buildings on Barrack Hill. It was decided that the Board could not entertain the application.

The plans were all carefully examined by the Commissioners, who, "while they saw much good in one or two of the plans, considered they are not bound to carry out any single plan. It is probable that they will combine the principal features of all the plans, and so out of the whole form one that will be eminently suitable." The *Southern Cross* recommended that "before the Commissioners decide on adopting any one of [the plans], the whole should be placed on view, in some convenient place, for the inspection of the public for at least a week or ten days."<sup>50</sup> The report on the competitive plans for the improvement of the Albert Barrack Reserves was brought up again at the February meeting of the Commissioners. It was noted by the *Southern Cross* that the plan signed "Floreat Auckland" was considered the best. Mr Heale said that "'Floreat's' was not the best plan as a drawing, but was the only one that could be dealt with, and was therefore deemed the best. As a plan simply, it was badly drawn, and inferior to "Rus in Urbe." - A letter was read from "Mahomet" complaining of his plan being deemed "impracticable."<sup>51</sup>

It was resolved that a new street should be surveyed from Princes-street to Coburg-street, in the vicinity of Victoria-street. This street subsequently became Bowen Avenue. Mr Fenton moved that the Barrack wall, except that portion from the north gate to Symonds-street, and such other portions as may be required, be offered for sale by public tender and this was agreed to. The Board resolved also to inform the Defence Minister that the Commissioners "will be willing to exchange the Magazine in the Albert Barracks for the Militia Store secured to the Government by the Act. The former building occupies nearly twice as much land as the store. The wall of the Barracks will be mostly removed, and it appears to the Commissioners that the Militia Store, a wooden structure, unprotected as it will then be, will not be as advantageous a place for the storing of arms as the old magazine, which is strongly built of stone, and is surrounded by a high stone wall ... They desire this exchange because the store is very much in the way of the proposed improvements."<sup>52</sup> A contract for the destruction of the stone Barrack wall was awarded to a Mr Alcock in February 1873 at a rate of £1. 17s. 6d per chain.

In spite of the evident public support for a recreational park on the site of the Barracks, some were still pressing for provision of a cricket ground. However, 'A Man in the City' wrote to the *Southern Cross* that ...



“The petition of the cricketers and others to be presented at the next meeting of the Commissioners does not quite express the wishes of the public of Auckland; as quite ninety-nine out of every hundred wish the sixteen-acre recreation ground to be laid out something like this, viz.: - The centre to be laid down in grass, to be used for cricket, football, pedestrian sports, archery, croquet, bowls, quoits, and Rifle Volunteer parade ground; the remaining portion all round the outer edge could be laid out with walks, and planted with trees, shrubs, flowers, &c. The people of Auckland will be quite satisfied with the Commissioners if some such plan as this is carried out, and it is only the fear that the recreation ground would be cut up in small pieces that has created so much mistrust in the minds of the public.”<sup>53</sup>

No further development occurred at the Barracks site for the next year. Lime trees were planted by the Commissioners on west side of Princes Street and in June 1874, R.W. Dyson lectured to the Auckland Institute on the subject: "A Few Notes on Trees" - Mr Dyson had earlier lectured on the subject of parks as the 'lungs of the city'.



Figure 8 View of Auckland from Albert Park, n.d., APL A5/64

The fear of alienation of this land continued to trouble the citizens of Auckland: ‘An Old Colonist’ wrote to the editor of the *Southern Cross*, in February 1875, referring to a letter he had previously written, in which he gave his opinion that a portion of the reserve was required for a central railway station:

“I now assert that the whole of the barrack grounds are wanted for public uses, and that it will be extreme folly to lease any portion of the land. I am aware that some of the land is to be for the present kept as a reserve; and I am also aware that it is a very much broken plot that is so reserved. The whole of the flat land within the barrack wall was small enough for military purposes, or for the volunteer's use, and being in the centre of town it ought to be kept for their use: at the same time cricketers and football players and others could have enjoyed their manly games; and a good open space in our city, such as this, would have done much for the health and comfort of the inhabitants as well as strangers .... The happiness, health, comfort and enjoyment of the people very much depends on the facilities offered for citizens. Crime,

dissipation and misery are chiefly found in crowded alleys and narrow streets. In towns where there are large public reserves such as Portsmouth in England, Oxford and Cambridge, we find less drunkenness, and the inhabitants more energetic .... I know no other spot in the world where so pleasant a view is to be found as that from Albert Barrack Hill. It is folly, something worse than insanity, to build over such a reserve, and take from the public that which citizens ought to demand as their birthright."<sup>54</sup> [fig.8]

Another correspondent wrote to the editor of the *Herald* under the pseudonym of 'Cit', hoping that "the citizens will arouse themselves, and see that the new Act to be brought into the Assembly this session by the Improvement Commissioners does not give them power to mortgage the sixteen acres reserved for recreation grounds, in the Albert Barracks, by a former Act of Assembly."<sup>55</sup>

A second *Auckland Improvement Bill*, to replace the *Auckland Improvement Act, 1873*, was read a second time in Parliament. The objection to this bill was the power which its third clause gave to any debenture holder, whose interest should be due and unpaid for five years, to apply for a judge of the Supreme Court for an order to sell all lands vested in the Commissioners. This measure appeared to leave the security of the reserve of fifteen acres somewhat at the mercy of unsatisfied debenture holders. In November 1875, the Improvement Commissioners offered building sites in the Albert Barrack Reserve. Among the lots offered were

"the whole of the available sites in Princes-street, forming on the one side a terrace from the Club to the old Engineer Office inside the Barrack wall, commanding a view unsurpassed in Auckland, and on the other side a few select allotments having Government House grounds in the rear and with an equally commanding view. These are the choicest spots in or around Auckland for gentlemen's residences, particularly for business men, and indeed are the only sites available now in or near the city.... The grounds of the park are ornamented with trees and shrubs, and the various streets are splendidly formed, metalled, channelled, and lighted with gas.... There are in all 93 allotments, and, we hear, they are to be sold."<sup>56</sup> [fig.9]

The following January, the former Treasury building in the Barracks, and the wooden building used as offices by the Commissioners, were offered for sale, to be removed within seven days by the purchaser. In May 1878, the artist Alfred Sharpe wrote to the *New Zealand Herald* with a litany of complaints against the Commissioners, under the heading: "The Ethnologic Aspect of Auckland. Chapter I. by Asmodeus.

"Improvement Commissioners.- (1) Being elected to form a park in the best manner, they borrow £50,000 and squander it all in doing precisely the reverse of the business they were elected to do; (2) they cut up the ground into streets and allotments, and shunted the park into almost precipitous bits on the outskirts, and then alienated large portions of those bits to private parties for ten years for the value of a few trees; (3) they let six years pass and have not planted one tree yet; (4) they pooh pooh the notion that with half the money they had to spend, and have spent, any contractor would have formed a magnificent park with trees, botanic gardens, flowers, fountains, greenhouses, statues, grottos, arbours, &c., &c., which would have been a thing of beauty and a joy for ever and the delight and sanatorium of Auckland. ASMODEUS"<sup>57</sup>

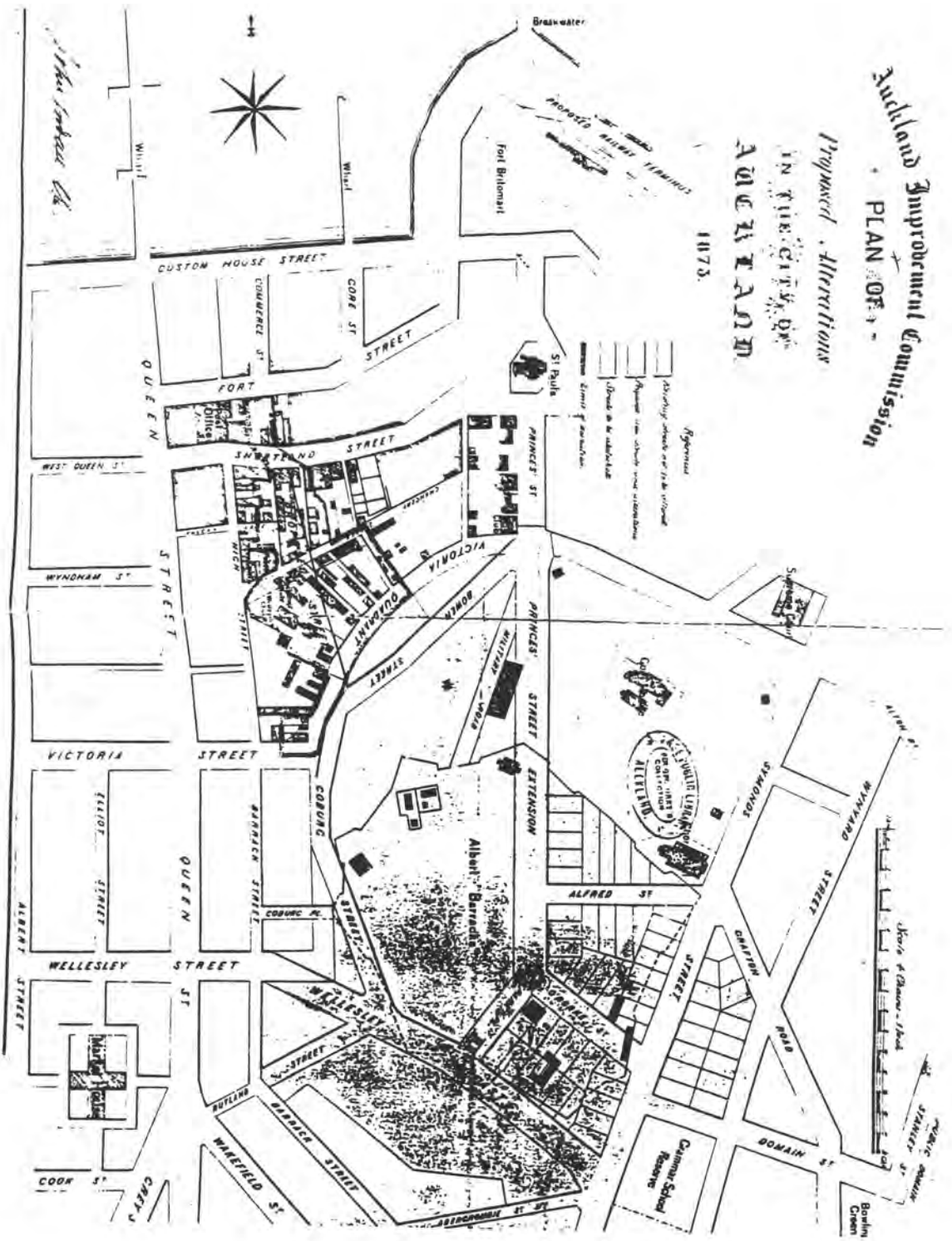


Figure 9 Plan of 1873 showing subdivision of part of Barracks site by the Auckland Improvement Commissioners

The cricketers of the city had not yet given up their claim to a playing field on the Barracks site, and maintained a steady correspondence in the newspapers. 'On-looker' wrote to the *Weekly News* in May that a cricket ground should be constructed in the Albert Barracks, due to its proximity to town, and "that ground is in effect idle."<sup>58</sup> In July 1878, the Auckland Improvement Commissioners again called for plans for the best layout of the Albert Barrack reserves for a Recreation and Cricket Ground. A prize of £10 was awarded for a plan signed by 'Puriri', the pseudonym of the new Deputy Ranger of the Auckland Domain, William Goldie.

In May 1880, Auckland cricketers took action to get a practice ground in Albert Park as it was now being called. A petition was received by Auckland City Council from the secretaries of nine different clubs praying that a piece of ground should be reserved for the purpose. The matter was referred to the General Purposes Committee. The clubs urged the city to plant the Park with trees, and they would cause a cricket ground for practice to be reserved.

"Thus it appears that our cricketers, or some enthusiasts among them, have cast their eyes upon our forthcoming park, and have decided that it would admirably suit them for the amusements of bat and ball, with which trees and other projected embellishments would entirely conflict, and so they modestly invite us to forego all such idle innovations over a goodly portion of the now extremely limited surface of the reserve."<sup>59</sup>

Later in the year, permission for Mr John Smith to exercise his racehorses in the Albert Park was withdrawn following an accident in which Master Johnstone's arm was broken when he was kicked by a horse. The use of the park by Coles Circus in November was curtailed when the Circus moved from "portion let" in Albert Park to Fairburn's paddock, Upper Symonds St. under threat of a "lawsuit" from the lessees of the Park.<sup>60</sup>

In early January 1881, the Finance Committee of Auckland City Council resolved that a sum of £10 should be offered for a new competition to obtain the "best design for laying out Albert Park" Plans were called for, to be sent in on or before 4.30 p.m. of February, 1881. Editorial comment applauded the decision to act, noting that "time enough has been lost in regard to the laying out of the Albert Park, and considerable mischief has arisen owing to the delay. The City Council have now advertised for designs for laying out and planting the reserve and offer a premium of £10..."<sup>61</sup>

There were only two competitive designs sent in for the £10 prize. The first, signed 'Fodi aut morire porci', was very elaborate. The second design was signed 'Surveyor'. The designs were referred to the Public Works Committee."

With a touch of weariness, the *Auckland Star* reported on 10 February:

"ALBERT PARK AGAIN. Cr. Crowther presented a petition from 85 residents in the vicinity of Albert Park, praying that the original resolution of the Council should be adhered to. The petition stated that it was believed another petition was in the hands of the Council, asking that a reserve be set apart for cricket, football, and other like games, and the petitioners asked that the Council would comply with the request on the following grounds : - (1) The area at the disposal of the Council is not sufficient for such games ; (2) Such games would become a danger and a nuisance; (3) We are

already in possession of one of the best cricket grounds in the colony ; (4) The distance to the present cricket ground is not very far, especially so when the tram-cars are running. - referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee." <sup>62</sup>  
and, on 11 February, the *New Zealand Herald* noted that

"petitions were received as to the laying out of the Albert Park. The petitioners in one case prayed that the original resolution should be adhered to. In another, that the resolution should be departed from so far as the cricket ground was concerned. The Petitions were referred to the Public Works Committee."

The City Council was censured by correspondents "for offering such a paltry premium as £10 for the best design for the laying out of Albert Park," saying that the amount ought not to have been less than £40. Neither of the designs sent in, according to the correspondent were as good as they should be, although it was conceded they were better than could be expected for the money.<sup>63</sup> Council decided, nonetheless, that £10 should be awarded to the plan signed "Fodi aut Norire (sic) Porci," for laying out Albert Park. [fig.10]

Council also resolved that "answers be sent to petitioner that the Council has no intention of setting apart a cricket ground in the Albert Park. That the plan for laying out the ground in the Albert Park subscribed "Fodi aut Morire Porci," be adopted with such modification as Council may from time to time determine, that the grounds be enclosed, that the walks be pegged out, and the grounds prepared for trees and shrubbery."<sup>64</sup> The successful entrants, Messrs Slator & Goldie, received a letter from Town Clerk, P.A. Philips advising them

"I have the honor to inform you that the Council have been pleased to award to you the sum of £10 being premium offered to the successful competitor for Plan to lay out Albert Park, and in the opinion of the Council this amount is allotted to you as drafters of the Plan marked "Porci Fodi aut Morire" [sic]. The money will be paid on application. "I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,  
"Your obedient Servant P.A. Philips, Town Clerk."<sup>65</sup>

One month later, Slator received a further letter from Philips advising that "The Public Works Committee would like to meet you on Wednesday at 3.30 pm on the ground, Albert Park Reserve, with respect to your plan."<sup>66</sup>

The *New Zealand Herald* reported that the Works Committee of Council had recommended that "the plan of the ground, as being laid out, be approved of; that the carriage drive be 24 feet wide, and that an additional drive be made round the large circle, to be also 24 feet wide, the extra width to be taken off the diameter of the circle; also, that the ground be sloped down to Coburg, Park, and Bowen streets, arrangements to be made so as to improve the surroundings of the Armoury building." Three tenders were received by Council for this work:

tenderer	with ploughing	without ploughing
J. Bridgman	£529	£519
J. Kirby	£435	
W. Hanks	£408	£369

The tender of Mr Hanks was accepted.<sup>67</sup>

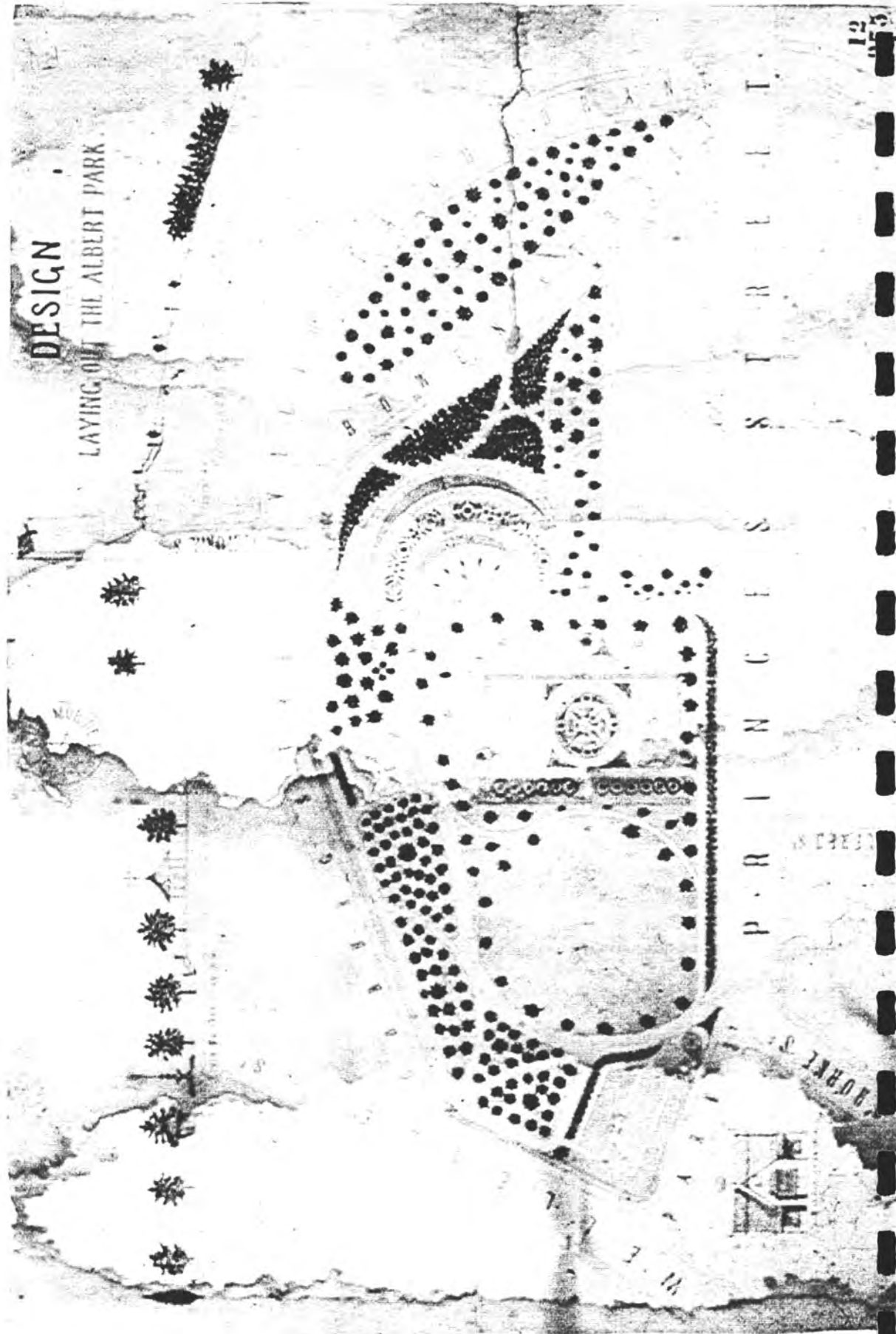


Fig.10 Slaton and Goldie's successful entry for the design of the new Albert Park

In May, the report of the Public Works Committee was read. Among its recommendations, was a clause concerning the fencing of Albert Park. An iron fence with stone base had been recommended, but it was moved, that "the Surveyor prepare the estimate of cost of an ornamental wooden fence, with brick base and puriri post. - Mr Montague seconded the motion. Wooden fences could be had for £500 or £1,300, and the iron fence would cost £3,000 - Mr Offer also supported the motion and went into statistics to show that the property would not pay working expenses. He, as a representative of the South Ward, would object to this expenditure. Mr. Aickin contended that the figures quoted by Mr. Offer were not correct: his estimates were entirely out. There would be a revenue to the good of £400 a year when the properties were let."<sup>68</sup>

Further questions were asked in Council in July, to discover when the iron railings for the park would be ready. The plans of the proposed alterations and improvements to with the Park were submitted for consideration of the Council, with an estimate of cost of £3568, with iron fencing estimated at a further £582. Finally, at the end of the month, the Committee authorised the advertisement of tenders for a concrete wall and iron fencing around the Park. In August, the Park Committee recommended that the Resident Minister in Auckland, the Hon. F. Whitaker, be written to, requesting the Government to remove the present Armoury and building from Albert Park.

Councillor Waddel remarked in September that, "in noticing the works now going on in Albert Park, his attention had been drawn to the embankment which was being sodded around the place where the guns were to be mounted and the flagstaff erected. It was not being done in accordance with the plan adopted by this Council. The plan showed terraces, but this was a steep embankment, unapproachable from this side. He was not aware that the Council had authorised any deviation from the plan adopted. Mr Anderson, City Surveyor, was called in. He pointed out that there was no deviation from the plan adopted. The slope was shown with a flight of steps. It was agreed that the Parks Committee should visit the ground in the morning."<sup>69</sup>

Tenders for this work were received in November and the lowest tender of W. Blewden in the sum of £3977 was accepted. By February 1882, the improvements were reported as "progressing, and the fencing executed down to Blewden's contract at Coburg-street, and can readily be carried on when the works in Victoria Quadrant [were] sufficiently advanced to permit of it."<sup>70</sup> The Raglan Stone for the Park gate piers had come to hand, and was being put into position. Lines of walk had just been laid down, showing that construction of the Park had begun in earnest. "The only trees at present there are numerous pines which are such an adornment of the slopes at the seaward side."<sup>71</sup> [fig.11]

Bylaws gazetted for the new site in 1881 recommended that "certain sections of Bylaw No 17 relative to Public gardens be posted in Albert Park. viz

- "No. 4. No person shall walk over the beds and borders or climb upon or get over the fences or remove any of the tallies or disturb damage or destroy any property or thing in the garden.
- No. 6. No cart or vehicle used for the conveyance of goods shall without the authority of the proper officer of the Council be driven through the garden.
- No. 9 Children under the age of 10 years not being under the control of some competent person shall be removed from gardens.

- No.10. All dogs and goats and all poultry found within the garden shall be destroyed and the owner shall make compensation to be recovered before any justice for any damage done
- No.12. Any person offending against this subdivision or any such regulation shall forfeit a sum not exceeding five pounds."<sup>72</sup>



Figure 11 Albert Park, looking south-east from the Northern Club, showing pine trees planted on the northern slopes. *APL 136*

In February the following year, it was agreed that the Council would offer to remove the present wooden armoury building, and to re-erect this on an allotment selected by the Government, provided the cost did not exceed £1300. In March, the Parks Committee recommended that "the tender of Mr Oxley for a flag-pole, 73 feet high, at £50, be accepted" and that "tenders for platforms for two guns be invited; also that orders be sent for the fountain, [and] that applications be invited for the situation of gardener."<sup>73</sup> In May, the *Herald* reported that "the removal of the present [Armoury] building, which is an eyesore in the Albert Park, may be regarded as an accomplished fact."<sup>74</sup>

The Parks Committee recommended in May that Messrs Mason's tender for plants be accepted at 2/- a tree, and that plans for a lodge should be invited. Tenders were received for the gun platforms from J. Brett, £69.10s; A. Archibald, £50.18s; E. Burns, £52; W. Hanks, £68; W. Kirby, £79 and the lowest tender was accepted. Tenders for the Park Lodge were received from T. Constable, £525; Wrigley and Handcock, £393; J. Ellingham, £577; and W. Hutchinson, £498.2s and again, the lowest tender was accepted.

It was noted in the *Herald* of 9 June that

"The plans of the lodge about to be erected as a residence for the park-keeper in charge of Albert Park, show that the City Council are determined to make that official comfortable in that respect. The lodge, which is Gothic in style, and is to be



thoroughly well finished inside, consists of a parlour, two bed-rooms, and kitchen, pantry, scullery, with coal-shed and yard at rear. There is a verandah 17 feet in length and 5 feet wide, across part of the frontage. The parlour is lighted by a handsome bow-window, elliptic headed, and having mullions and transoms. It possesses a double fireplace, the lower section being in the best selected red brick, the caps finished in Portland cement."<sup>75</sup>

By August, the park was beginning to assume a more cheerful and attractive appearance. A number of trees were in the process of being planted out by Mr. Boston, the custodian of the Park, and his assistants. A number of native shrubs were being planted among the ornamental trees dotting the slope on the upper side of Bowen-street, while it was thought probable that, on the slope facing Coburg street, flowering shrubs would be set out. There were no gates fixed at the entrances to the Park, with the result that "stray horses and cows find their way in to the great annoyance of Mr Boston, who is now getting them impounded whenever possible."<sup>76</sup> The September report of the Parks Committee recommended that Mr Wells be authorised to purchase what plants might be necessary. In October, the *Herald* reported that

"The general public are now beginning to appreciate the advantages of having in the midst of the city, such a splendid site as the Albert Park, and as it daily grows more beautiful and more attractive, it will become not only a lung to the city, but a great adornment to it. the work of transforming the old barrack green into a handsome park has of course entailed a heavy cost, but never has citizens' money been expended to better advantage, and in a few years they will be able to point out its beauties of situation and adornment to visitors from other places. We have taken the trouble to collate a few particulars in regard to the park, which we now present to our readers.

"the Albert Park, comprising from 13 to 14 acres in extent ... the present Mayor (Mr. J. M. Clark ) at once set his mind to work to make the park what is was intended to be, and in his efforts he received the fullest support from the Council. The City Surveyor prepared plans, &c., for laying it out, and in June, 1881, the first contract was let to Mr Hanks for sloping the precipitous inclines to Wellesley and Park streets. This was done at a cost of £369; and the second contract, £36, was let to the same contractor for certain formation and levelling works. The next contract was let in July the same year, to Mr Allan McGuire, to build concrete walls as basements for the iron railings round the park; also gate pillars, &c. This contract, which was let for £850, is not yet quite completed. At the same time a contract was let to Mr Kelly, of Freeman's Bay, for £1339, to supply the iron railings, gates, &c. ... Mr. Blewden's contract for the formation of Coburg, Victoria, and Bowen streets greatly enhances the park property. Mr Blewden's contract was £3,977, of which £1,000 is chargeable to the park.

"These works were followed by cutting walks, sloping and grassing the slopes, and otherwise making ready for the work of beautifying the site ... The Council invited applications from landscape gardeners for the office of park-keeper, and out of a number of applicants, who had very high testimonials and lengthy experience, Mr Boston received the appointment. For some time the weather was so bad that little could be done, but the earliest advantage was taken of the spring weather, and already the plateaus and slopes of the park give an insight into what it will shortly be.

"The highest plateau overlooks the lower portion of the city. A flagstaff occupies the centre, and frowning down on the city are two large cannons, mounted on stone beds. [fig.12] At the back of this is another circular plateau, in the centre of which is the excavation for the fountain which is to be erected. this has been ordered, and is on its way out from England, and when erected it will stand 15 feet in height, and will have a very handsome and imposing appearance. A wide path extends round the plateau, and is planted on the outside with camellia trees, which are already well grown, and will all be in flower next season. Indeed on some of them there are blossoms already. The inner portion of the circle is to be planted with flowers of different kinds, four entrances being left to the fountain. As already stated, the main frontage is to Princes-street, where there are two main entrances, one near the Wellesley street end, where the park lodge is erected, and the other near the residence of the late John Smith. The space adjoining the railing is laid off in ornamental serpentine form, and planted with choice native and foreign trees and shrubs. The beds at the corners are planted with specimen trees."<sup>77</sup>

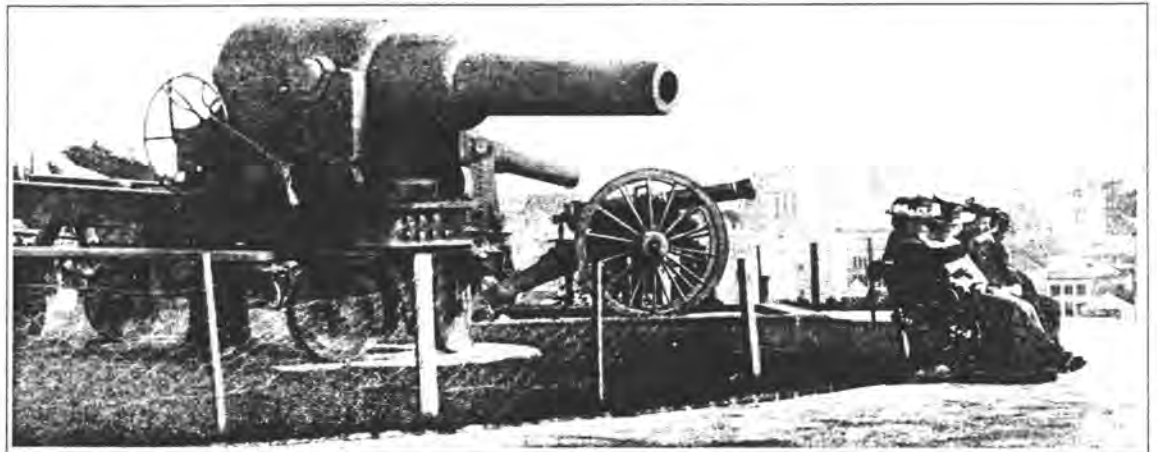


Figure 12 Artillery cannon on the site of the former barracks magazine, with guns "captured from the French at Waterloo", *Weekly News*, 11 May 1910, *APL A2925*

The City Council at their weekly meeting in April 1886 heard correspondence from George Smith complaining that Mr Wells had discharged him from his employment in the Park without the consent of the Parks Committee, and asking to be heard on his own behalf. He suggested that the Council should save £150 a year by letting the keeping of the Park in order by contract. The Mayor pointed out that Mr. Smith was not engaged by the Parks Committee, but by Mr. Wells. The Parks Committee did not think it necessary to hear Mr. Smith. Cr. Burns attributed the trouble to a discourteous letter Mr Wells wrote to Dr. Haines. The Mayor said he had a copy of the letter, and it was a most courteous one. "Cr. Devore said that it would be a wrongful interference with the person in charge if they allowed every wages man who was dismissed to come there and make a statement. Cr. Garratt said this was not the first charge that had been made against Mr Wells : Referred to the Parks Committee."<sup>78</sup>

Considerable progress had now been made in laying out the Park. By February 1888, a number of flower borders had been trenched and manured, and a partial re arrangement of the flowering plants, shrubs, etc., had been made, but further work of this kind had to be postponed until the following season.

That month, William Goldie was appointed to "supervise all work in the Albert Park." The *Auckland Star* reported the sad case of Sir Charles Burdett under the caption:

"No Rose Without A Thorn:

"Sir Charles Burdett was charged at the Police Court this morning with having, on the 7th of November, at Auckland, feloniously stolen from Albert Park, Auckland, two roses valued at 2d, the property of the Mayor, Councillors, and Burgesses of the city of Auckland."<sup>79</sup>

Over the next seven years, the greening of the park proceeded with intense activity and the introduction of vast quantities of plants raised in Council nurseries in Auckland Domain. City Council records include reports of the park keeper which documented the annual plantings and progress in setting out and forming paths. Between November 1889 and October 1890, eighteen thousand plants were brought from the Domain and planted in the Park. It was felt that "these will add greatly to the appearance of the beds and borders during the present summer. There are still a few thousands more to be sent down, and planted this season. Last winter, nine new beds were trenched and manured, they are now planted with foliage, bedding plants, so as to give a mass of colour ... Last autumn some portions of the lawns were top-dressed with the sweepings of the streets, the result has again been satisfactory."<sup>80</sup>

During 1892, fifty thousand plants were set out in the Park. A large number of these were flowering plants, supplying a great variety of colours; the rest were foliage plants, employed in carpet bedding. These plants, "arranged in large masses of colour, will contrast well with the grass." Several pine trees were cut down, as they were growing too large for the grounds. The following year, 62,000 bedding and flowering plants were planted in the Park, and the show of bloom was pronounced very good, the brightly coloured beds of foliage attracting visitors from all parts of the city.

In a paper presented in October 1893 the Rev P. Walsh referred to the success of the public fernery at the "late Dunedin Exhibition", and suggested one for the "Domain gully and the Albert Park", describing its purpose to, "educate the taste of the country settler, and help to arouse his interest in the protection of that which he usually deems so worthless [indigenous vegetation] because it is so common." He suggested a building in cruciform shape, surmounted by a dome at the intersection of the arms.<sup>81</sup>

In 1894, 72,000 plants were planted in Albert Park, promising a fine display of flowers. The beds of coloured foliage plants had been much admired the previous season and they promised well for the coming one. The drive and walks were being improved since, in wet weather, they become quite soft; some of them were to be tarred and sanded. A new tool shed was built at the back of the Lodge and a large yard fenced in, which promised to be a great convenience in working the Park.

In 1895, 71,000 plants were planted in the Park, the result being a good display of flowers and coloured foliage. As a change, a number of the small beds were planted with dwarf flowering plants instead of tinted foliage plants. It was felt that the soil would benefit and a new effect would be given by this arrangement. A few more pine trees were cut down but many were still many standing, and these obstructed views from the park. During the summer the remaining paths that had not been tarred and sanded were to be improved for the convenience of visitors in wet weather.

More pine trees were felled during 1896, on the slopes near the flagstaff to give a better view of the harbour. A further 76,000 plants were planted out in the beds and borders, with a good display of flowers and foliage resulting. During 1896, 2,000 yards of new tarring and sanding done on the paths. That summer, during the slack time, preparations were made to finish paving the paths. A further 75,000 plants were planted out, and a fairly good display of flowers and foliage was the result. Pine and cypress trees continued to be cut down where they were becoming too thick.

In 1898, 74,900 plants were brought from the Domain and planted out. No trees were cut down, but some of the deciduous trees were pruned in the winter. 4,150 yards of tar and sand were laid on the paths, and it was intended to deal with other paths in the following autumn.<sup>82</sup> 1899 saw the arrival of public art in the park. On 3 October, a bequest of £1,000 was announced by the Scenery Conservation Society at its inaugural meeting. The society boasted four vice presidents and a committee of 20 including many of the city's most prominent citizens. The bequest was made under the terms of the wills of Mr and Mrs George and Helen Boyd and resulted in the gift to Albert Park of twenty four pieces of ornamental pottery including statuary and urns.<sup>83</sup> [fig.13,14]



Figure 13 Statue presented under the bequest of George and Helen Boyd, *APL W1708*, 6 January 1921



Figure 14 View of the Princes Street boundary of Albert Park, ca.1905, showing the serpentine border of bedding plants, and urns presented by the Boyd Bequest, *APL A4734*

The activities of the Auckland Scenery Conservation Society beyond the Boyd bequest are not certain but there is no evidence beyond 1905 that the society was still functional. In November, a statue of the Queen was erected on a suitable spot and unveiled on 24 May and this, it was agreed, added much to the appearance of the Park. [fig.15]



Figure 15 Unveiling of Jubilee Statue of Queen Victoria, *Auckland Institute and Museum, c1983/1983*

A number of garden seats of an improved pattern were also presented by some citizens for use in the Park, a few of these being placed near the flagstaff, [see **fig.12**] and good positions promised for those which were still to be located. A further 69,130 plants were brought from the Domain and planted out, resulting in "the average display of bloom and foliage." No tarring and sanding was undertaken during the year, owing to a reduction in available labour.

In spite of the periodic removal of pine trees from the park, there was strong pressure from the community to remove more and thus open up views of the city. As more were felled, approving correspondence noted that ...

"the removal of the sepulchral pines from the northern end is without doubt a vast improvement, and ought to have been done earlier. Every one acquainted with culture knows the desirability of opening up the sun side to warm breezes and meridional rays. So far so good. But mark the official mind ! "The destruction must go on right round the west, even cutting away the lovely trees which hid the ugly back of the public library. They have actually hewn away the shade trees from the southward, rendering the place perhaps the bleakest spot in winter around the district. Horrible to relate however, they are now tearing away the lovely row of sylvan trees along the Princess-street side, leaving the whole eastern side open to the dusty street. In all my experience of barbarism I remember no such previous example. It is true that the lovely line of young trees last mentioned were somewhat moss-grown... they have even removed a beautiful tree of vast girth from the rear of the librarian's house, disclosing a pretty spectacle of back offices, tin shanties etc.; even the public urinal must be laid bare."<sup>84</sup>

A bandstand was added to the park. This indispensable component of public recreation grounds was an elegant construction based on an octagonal plan with a scalloped roof topped by a fashionable "onion" dome, reflecting the popular fascination with oriental taste fostered by earlier follies such as the Brighton Pavilion . This structure was designed by James Slator and was beautifully painted in floriated designs with a trellised cornice. [fig.16]

The presence of such a large open space in the central city was evidently an attraction to some authorities for potential new building sites for official purposes. A vigilant public, however, was alert to these threats to the park: "Hands off The Park !

"While we are in entire sympathy with the efforts of Judge Kettle to obtain a new Magistrate Court for Auckland, the need of which has long been felt by all having business to transact in the present building we must protest against any proposal to secure a site for the new court by filching a portion of the Albert Park. Unless all suggestions of this kind are resisted tooth and nail, in a few years there will not be left a single inch of open ground in Auckland City. It is hardly two years ago that the city nearly lost the Domain Hill owing to the indolent yielding of the City Council to pressure applied by outlying local bodies who cared nothing for what happened to Auckland City, but very sincerely opposed any raising of the hospital rate."<sup>85</sup>



Figure 16 Albert Park bandstand shortly after completion, showing the onion dome, painted floral frieze and trellis cornice, ATL

In 1906, a meteorological station was established in the park, providing a weather recording service which is today the oldest in Auckland City. In 1908, a visit by the celebrated "white fleet" of the American Navy was an occasion of great public spectacle, with welcoming parades, ship visits and water-borne salutes. Albert Park was a beneficiary of the spirit of goodwill with a circle of sixteen oak trees being planted in a sweeping curve around the band rotunda. Each tree was associated with a particular warship and each was planted by the captain of the vessel and by Admiral Sperry of the fleet. These trees are thought to have been subsequently replaced by those standing today but, even if they are not those trees originally planted, they quite satisfactorily commemorate the historic event and its location. [fig.17]

Other gifts to the park came from a closer source, when

"A gift from the "back blocks" that is as pleasing as it was unexpected ... made to the City Council as the custodians of Albert Park. Three children residing at Driving Creek (Coromandel), named Christina, Ouida, and Edwin Whitehead, and aged 12, 10, and 8 years respectively, have forwarded three large bulbs of the king or para fern (which they gathered during their Easter holidays), with a request that they be planted in Albert Park. In a suitably-worded letter the donors state that they will be pleased to forward any further specimens of this or other ferns which may be acceptable to the Council, and they express a hope that, "When we come to town we will be able to see some of our bush friends." The superintendent of parks (Mr. W Goldie) has taken the ferns to the Domain, where he will pot and nurse them until they are ready to be planted out. The town clerk (Mr. H W Wilson) has written to the children thanking them for the gift, and stating that the superintendent of parks will always be glad to receive similar contributions."<sup>86</sup>



Figure 17 view of Albert Park from the south, 4 September 1924, showing the circle of trees around the Bandstand, *APL W491*

A new Parks Superintendent for the city was appointed in 1908, replacing William Goldie who had also been the co-designer of Albert Park. Thomas Pearson was a Government landscape gardener who had previously been based at Rotorua and had designed and managed a number of important public reserves after earlier experience in the United States. This was noted in the newspapers, "and further interest was aroused by the appointment of a landscape gardener to the position of superintendent of reserves, it being expected that some comprehensive scheme for the beautifying of the Domain and Western Park would be drawn up. Mr. Pearson, the superintendent, has had long experience in his art ... Mr Pearson sketched out the rough plans he had conceived."<sup>87</sup> In July, a loan of £3,000 was proposed for parks and reserves, "for further laying out and improving of the Albert Park, Victoria Park, Western Park, Bay Field Park, and the Auckland Domain, three thousand pounds."<sup>88</sup>

The attractions of public places for self expression were evidently just as appealing in 1910 as they are today. In July, "An extraordinary act of vandalism was perpetuated in Albert Park during the night. Eleven handsome vases and two small pieces of statuary were knocked from their pedestals, and found lying on the ground. Four of the vases were more or less damaged, but the others were hardly injured. The ornaments were part of the Boyd bequest. It is impossible to conceive the object of the act which was presumably the result of a drunken freak."<sup>89</sup> The Park now settled into a pattern of management and maintenance, with occasional changes of features and regular re-planting of beds. Some of the cast iron fencing was removed in 1908 and in April 1925, it was noted that "the substitution of rockeries and gardens for the old iron fences on all frontages has done much to make this one of the most beautiful gardens under the councils control. The removal of the fences has made Princes Street the main frontage to the park whereas formerly it was merely a back boundary."<sup>90</sup>



In April 1926, proposals for a new Civic Centre were canvassed. An earlier proposal to erect a large administration complex on the site of the old city markets in Queen Street, to a design by the architects Gummer and Ford, had been rejected, and Albert Park was eyed as an alternative site. The opinions of a "leading architect" were published and, following discussion of renewal of leases and revenue to be gained, the £900,000 project lapsed. In 1938, to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI, a number of Windsor oaks were planted on 4 April, by Sir Stenson Cooke, Sir George Richardson and Mr G Hutchison CMG. Two of these oaks exist today.

The advent of a major war in the Pacific had a profound effect on Albert Park. As a large open space in the central city, it provided an ideal location for civil defence facilities. The surface of the park was extensively trenched and excavated and, below the ground, and a vast network of tunnels was constructed as air raid shelters for 20,000 members of the public in 1942. [fig.19] A figure of £120,000 was nominated as the cost, of which the Government would contribute 75%, the balance being provided by local bodies contributing to the Emergency Precautions Service.<sup>91</sup>

Work was carried out by between 80 and 100 Council staff with additional assistance from Government. The tunnels, described as "Auckland's Underground Galleries" ran the full length of the park area in grid-iron fashion, extending as far as Constitution Hill to the east. The tunnels were provided with sanitary facilities, first aid shelters, sleeping platforms and electric lighting and ventilation. The main shafts were 15 feet wide and 9 feet high with coved roofs while the transverse shafts were square in cross section, about 7 feet each way. Construction was of timber frame and the floor was of scoria. The combined length of the tunnels was 11,000 feet (about 2 miles) and approximately 1,500,000 (superficial) feet of timber was used to line the tunnels. Air shafts were sunk from the park level above and entrances were provided in Victoria Street, Kitchener Street and Beach Road. [figs.18,20]

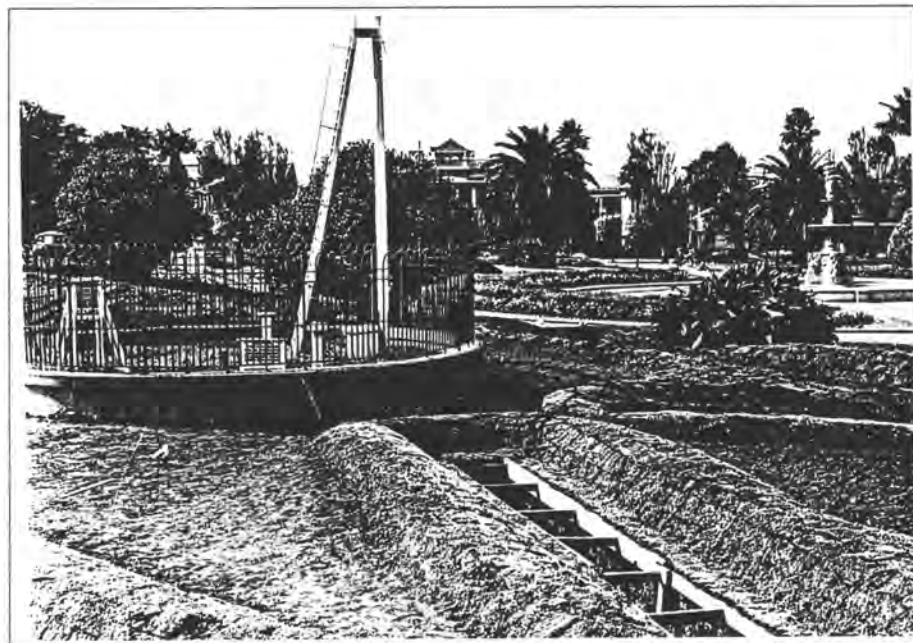


Figure 18 Air raid shelters under construction in Albert Park, AIM 4307

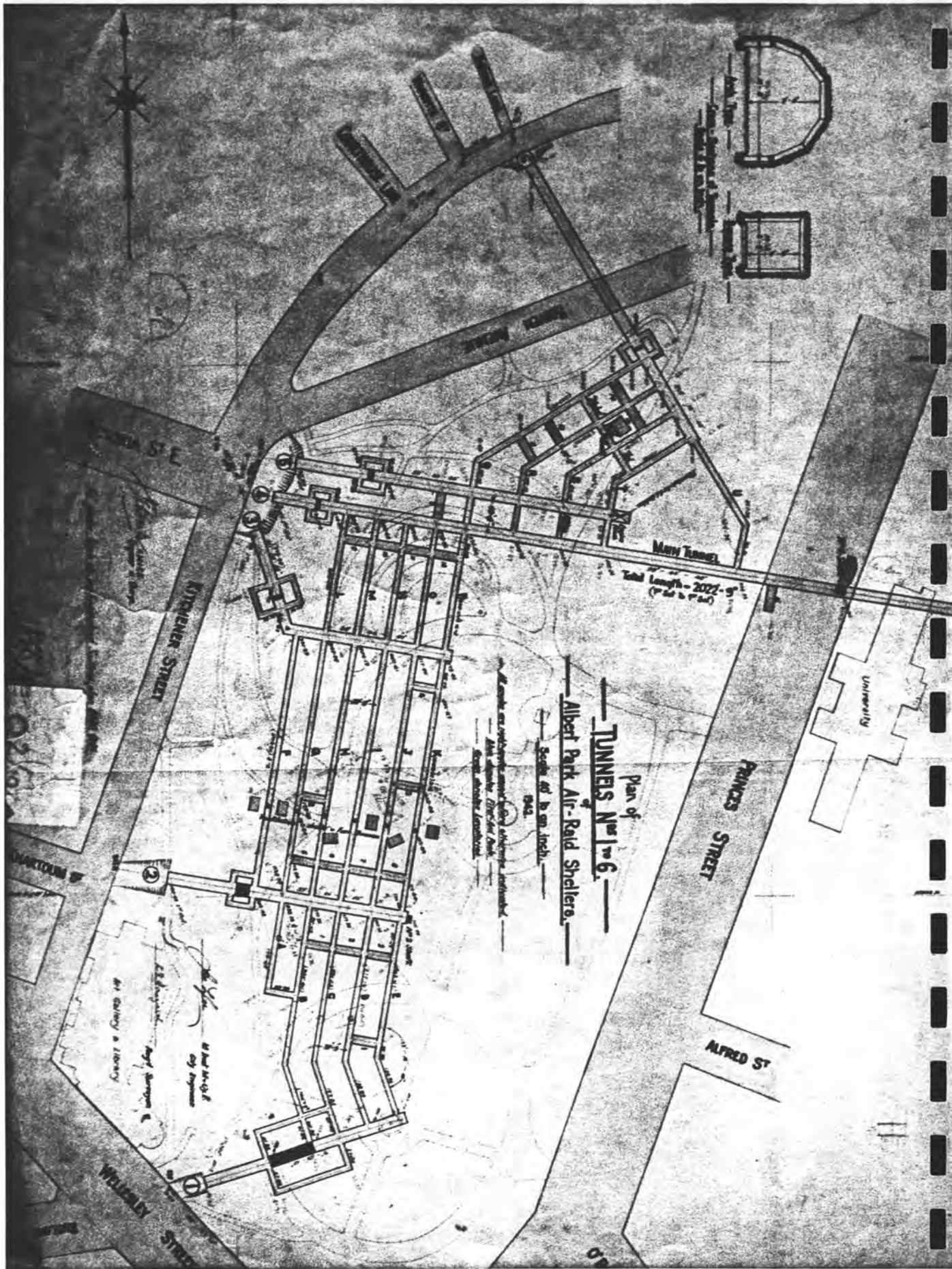


Figure 19 Plan of air raid shelter tunnels under Albert Park, 1942, Auckland Public Library



Figure 20 Interior view of a main shaft in the Albert park air raid tunnels, *AIM C30109*

After the war, the tunnels were filled with unfired bricks and the entrances were sealed and re-faced in stone. One access point remains in Beach Road.

Since the war, Albert Park has acquired a floral clock to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. This has been popular with both tourists and vandals and the mechanism has required frequent overhaul. Many original features of the park have been altered or have disappeared entirely. Of the original battery of cannon, only two remain. Those presented as souvenirs of the Crimean War have disappeared, as have others which were for a time re-located to the sward around the bandstand.

Efforts to recall the early history of the park in the 1980s resulted in the well-publicised excavation of an original barracks well north east of the bandstand. When this unfortunately collapsed into the air raid tunnels during the diggers' lunch break, a new shaft was created several metres away. Today, a conjectural brick and timber well head purports to be the "historic" barracks well.

## PLANNING AND DESIGN

### PRIMARY LAYOUT - design history: 1871 to 1881

There were different styles of garden design or 'layout' during the Victorian period, with the landscape styles usually associated with nearby dwellings. Australian landscape historian, Paul Fox, has documented the dominant landscape style of private and public gardens in the State of Victoria, in a lengthy published paper entitled, "What's in a Historic garden? The Villa Garden and the Landscape".<sup>92</sup> Garden Historian, Brent Elliot, has thoroughly detailed the evolution of the style in his book *Victorian Gardens*.<sup>93</sup> The Australian Heritage Commission refers to the style as 'High Victorian', describing it as

"the way in which the characteristics of a place are contrived to represent what is considered beautiful, or a particular ideal ... [and to] reflect current philosophies, popular aspirations, technological development and social change. ... Rather than being a contemporary Italian style [it] was more a revival of the classical features found in Tudor gardens ... the term 'High Victorian' was applied to gardens which fully developed the style and included terracing, elaborate buildings, statuary, axial paths, summer houses and monuments. The Crystal Palace, constructed in 1852 in a pleasure ground garden exhibited the full embodiment of the style and the highly successful gardens attracted thousands of visitors each year."<sup>94</sup>

In Australia, private gardens, institutional gardens and public parks all adopted elements of the 'High Victorian' style, and many municipal parks have layouts characteristic of the style, with formally arranged flower beds using bedding-out practices which have remained popular for more than 150 years.<sup>95</sup> The Italianate style was very popular and was expressed by an "asymmetrical ground plan", terraces, steps, fountains and other sculptural embellishments in plant (cypress; cedars; Tasmanian Bluegum, *Eucalyptus globulus* ... Lombardy Poplar, *Populus spp\ cvr.*) and stone such as urns or sculpture/statues. There were gardens being created in Auckland as early as the 1850s in this style, such as the widely recorded Blckett's garden in Parnell (St George's Bay). Visiting writer John Askew said of the garden in 1852, "of the mansion of Mr Blckett... that the edifice is built in the Italianate Style, with a broad flight of steps leading to the principal entrance where there is a terrace covered with gravel, and bordered with choice flowers."<sup>96</sup> This garden also is recorded as having a 'wilderness' garden by Askew, which was associated with the style as a contrast.

From an interview of Fred Wells, son of gardener William Wells, during the early 1930s, we know that his father William, who was employed in Albert Park from about 1882 to 1888, was some years earlier responsible for creating the naturalistic/rustic Copeland Hotel pleasure gardens and his nearby Vauxhall gardens near Narrowneck, Devonport.<sup>97</sup> He also laid out an Italianate-classical style terraced garden for William H. Copley near Cheltenham Beach. Fred Wells said that his father was initially employed by Sir George Grey at Mansion House and pictorial historic records show an Italianate style garden against the northern side of the house during the 1860s. On inspection, the original plan by Slator and Goldie can be seen to have a series of numbers marked from 1 to 25 apparently associated with blocks or specific parts of the park. There is a secondary numbering system from 1 to 33 linked to plants recorded at the base of each tree symbol.

There is a strong sense of symmetry in the gardens laid out around the 'battery' which the Auckland Evening Star referred to as 'chain flower beds'. In spite of newspaper descriptions, there is no evidence of the use of small coloured stones which were conventional for *parterre* type gardens of the period.<sup>98</sup> Nor is there any evidence of earthenware drains or glazed terracotta ornamental edging tiles in the 1881-1882 period. A sample of edging tile was offered to the Council by Carder Brothers about 1880, before the contracts were let. From the above description and an examination of the plan, it appears that the Park was intended to function as a pleasure garden with:

1. A 300 foot diameter playground.....space set aside.
2. A Nursery.....no evidence that this was used.
3. A Conservatory.....no evidence that this was constructed.
4. Chain flower beds .... uncertain if this was constructed.
5. 100 foot diameter circular flower garden.....constructed.
6. Lawn tennis ground.....no record of use.
7. Battery or lookout ground....constructed, but doesn't function as such today.
8. Carriage drive.....constructed around the playground and still extant.
9. Promenade 15 foot wide .....constructed.
10. Flagstaff.....constructed.
11. Walks 8 to 10 feet wide....constructed, two post 1929 removed from battery, and one added from Bowen Avenue.
12. Plantations of Native trees.....planted above Victoria Street East.
13. Plantations of conifers....on western side of park.

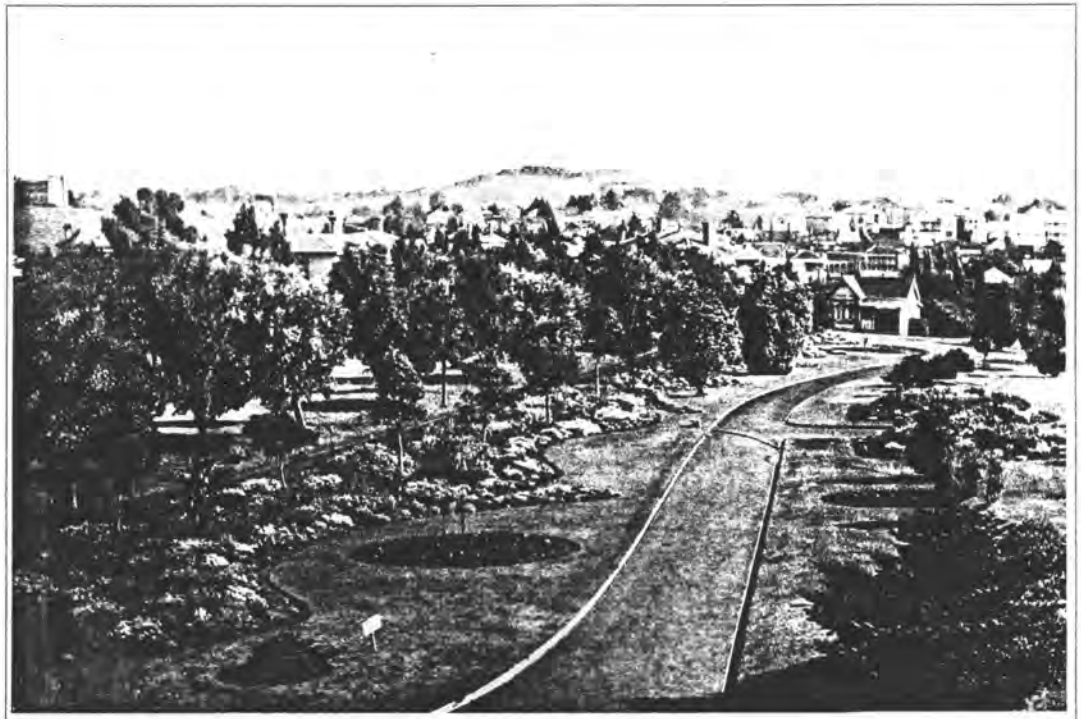
The terms 'promenade' and 'walk' - the former as part of a formal setting and the latter usually in a rustic or picturesque environment - were used to define public spaces for social gatherings during the Colonial Period. In Auckland, the Barracks, the Supreme Court and the grounds of Government House would all have served as meeting places, as did the Symonds Street Cemetery and the nearby Wynyard Wharf which ran into the harbour from the end of Short Street.

Albert Park was situated in the heart of the city. Social facilities available to residents and visitors include the numerous hotels, the Cathedral, Supreme Court, the Opera House, Art Gallery and Public Library. This building also housed the Council offices and (until about 1921) the Old Colonists' Museum. Prior to 1929, the Auckland Museum was housed in a building in lower Princes Street.

Sir George Grey made "presents of rare plants and trees - including Japanese palms, [*Trachycarpus fortunei*] fourcroias, ginger plants, tritons, two specimens of the yucca gloria [Adams' Needle], and other rare plants. Mr Hay has presented cork trees, and varieties of American and Australian trees. Mr Justice Gillies and His Worship the Mayor have also been very liberal in rare plants and flowers... The Japanese palms... have not been planted out, but they are to be planted on the slope facing the Northern Club."<sup>99</sup>

**SECONDARY LAYOUT AND GENERAL HORTICULTURAL HISTORY****CARPET BEDDING PHENOMENA: LATE 1880S - 1900**

**F**rom this period we have the yearly sequence of the reports of William Goldie and his census of plants placed into the park on a year by year basis from 1888 until 1899. 1896 saw the height of the planting schemes with some 76,000 plants recorded for the year in Goldie's report. The sequence of totals he gives for the ten year period from 1890 to 1899 are, 18,000; 42,000; 50,000; 62,000; 72,000; 71,000; 76,000; 75,000; 74,900; 63,130. It is not known how many staff were required to maintain these flower and foliage gardens but it can be roughly estimated that the area under cultivation would have been possibly four to five times greater that we find in the Park today, with equally large volumes being planted into the formal garden area in the Auckland Domain where the plants were cultivated. The plants were selected for both foliage and flower. In 1892 he uses the term "carpet bedding" and says "these plants arranged in large masses of colour, will contrast well with the grass." [fig.21]



**Figure 21** Carpet bedding in the serpentine border along Princes Street, *APL A210*

Other items listed by William Goldie in his reports included lawn maintenance (probably hand scythed); regular tarring and sanding of "drives" and "walks"[1893]; new garden seats "of an improved pattern." [1899] and the removal of "pine" and "cypress".

**REFORM ERA: 1900 - 1914**

**D**uring this period, trees were being removed from the site and new plantings were taking place. William Goldie was succeeded by T.E. Pearson and new loans were raised as a result of the influence of the Village Improvement and Town Planning movement. An advisory committee (chaired [probably] by Professor Frederick D. Brown who taught at the Auckland University College),<sup>100</sup> recommended in a lengthy report that, "the pine stumps throughout the park be planted with ivy geranium."<sup>101</sup> A plan annotated "June 1905" in red ink [probably in the hand of William Goldie], was attached to a report to Council, showing the numbers of the beds and reporting names and plants in each bed in Albert Park.<sup>102</sup>

During the week that Council staff began to clear the site of the proposed Myers Park, Tom Pearson (the city landscape gardener), said in an interview that, while Mr Myers was away, he "intend[ed] to visit the parks in the various municipalities in Europe to see what has been done in the direction of beautification, and he will, no doubt, have suggestions to make for improving of Myers Park when he returns." He said that the "land lends itself admirably to the requirements of a rock and water garden. In nearly every big city in Europe large sums are being spent in forming semi-aquatic plant gardens, as the plants are so attractive in appearance. Myers Park is admirably situated for the growth of semi-tropical plants, as it is completely sheltered from all winds .... and other of the palms and cycads will probably be introduced."<sup>103</sup>

Just before the outbreak of World War I, a 1912 news item advised that

"there was an agitation in many New Zealand towns for the fences surrounding public parks and reserves to be taken away altogether, and the experiment has been successfully tried in Christchurch...the Sydney municipal authorities had found that the idea had resulted in a great improvement in the appearance of the parks. The removal of the fences might well be adopted in the case of some of the Auckland parks."<sup>104</sup>

American journalist, Paul Gooding, commenting in 1913, said that,

"Of Auckland's parks, Albert Park, in the downtown district, is the prettiest .... In Albert Park are cannon from Waterloo, Crimea, South Africa, and New Zealand battle-fields; and around the bandstand Admiral Sperry and other officers of the United States Navy planted sixteen oak trees in August, 1908 ... From Albert Park it is worth while to step into the public art gallery, adjoining... In the Auckland Museum, also near Albert Park, is to be found New Zealand art of another sort."<sup>105</sup>

**INTERWAR TO POST-WORLD WAR II : 1917 - 1945**

**A** detailed description of maintenance and management practices was recorded in 1922 by T.E. Pearson, who noted that "the park grounds are well laid out in flower beds and borders. The Princes Street border, running parallel with the street of that name, is about 600 feet long, and is continuously kept gay with a fine display of the gardener's art. The lesser borders of the Park include the Boyd border and small beds, in which are fine displays of giant hydrangeas, as well as suitable flowering shrubs and plants. The smaller beds are laid

out during the year with spring flowering bulbs, and several are furnished during the summer and autumn with carpet bedding design. Roses, of which there are now nearly 300 varieties, occupy a prominent position. Fine specimens of Canary Island palms (*Phoenix Canariensis*) (sic), as well as many other exotic trees, such as *Cedrus Deodara*, (sic) *Cedrus Atlantica*, (sic) and many fine types of English and American oaks, English elms, birches, etc., have been introduced. A feature of this park is the area known as Bowen Avenue, which a few years ago, was a refuse tip, but has since been planted out in eucalypti and palms, and margined off in rock work, [on the western side of Bowen Ave.] containing suitable plants for this class of gardening."<sup>106</sup>

*The Municipal Record* in April 1925 noted that "Albert Park has long been one of the city's show places, and the substitution of rockeries and gardens for the old iron fences on all frontages has done much to make this one of the most beautiful gardens under the council's control. The removal of the fences has made Princes Street the main frontage to the park whereas formerly it was merely a back boundary."<sup>107</sup> Pearson's "brief report to the Town Clerk for year ending 31 March 1925," is the first report to be located in the archives for the 20th Century. Pearson reported that

"Albert Park ... has again been kept to a high standard of efficiency under the very able supervision and management of Mr G. Fillmore [senior] and capable staff ... The most favoured attraction during the summer months has been the four fountain beds laid out to pattern with pink & white Begonia, Iresine, Althemanthera, etc, also the two wing beds of Zinnias, all of which have received much comment for the quality and size of blooms and the variety of lovely shades and colours. The oval bed of cannas planted in groups with a completely new stock of roses during the winter, did not come up as expectations, and to make up the deficiency, we planted thickly with portulaca (quite a new departure) which brought forth unstinted praise for its dwarf habit and carpet like appearance, and mass of gorgeous art tints. The Princes St. border (ribbon) which had the iron fence removed also many of the larger shrubs, forming the background cut out, has received most favourable comment since. The ribbon border now running on both sides and the continuous profusion of bloom has been much admired, and generally admitted a decided improvement. [fig22] The new entrance to the Park opposite Alfred St. is quite a boon to the users and is much appreciated. The other beds and borders, and the rockwork at Bowen Avenue have likewise received close attention. The Lawns have been regularly cut and trimmed, the paths kept clean and tidy, and the general appearance of the Park is quite up to concert pitch. Flagstaff - It was pointed out in last year's report that the Flagstaff was 3' to 3'6" off the perpendicular at the truck, and should receive immediate attention. This work should be put in hands (sic) without any further delay ... The Albert Park has now a uniform service of 3/4 inch piping except Bowen Avenue which as 1/2 inch."<sup>108</sup>

Thomas Aldridge presented at least seven yearly reports between 1933 and 1941. These colourful essays give a general image of part of the horticultural effort to maintain the park. Spring floral displays focused on bulbous plants during the early 1930s, with anemone, gladioli, ranunculus iris and tulips being popular. Summer and early autumn displays featured cannas, zinneas, begonias, slavia, dahlias and chrysanthemum. Some 14,000 plants were used in this display - less than half the numbers used at the peak of the carpet bedding programmes of the 1890s.



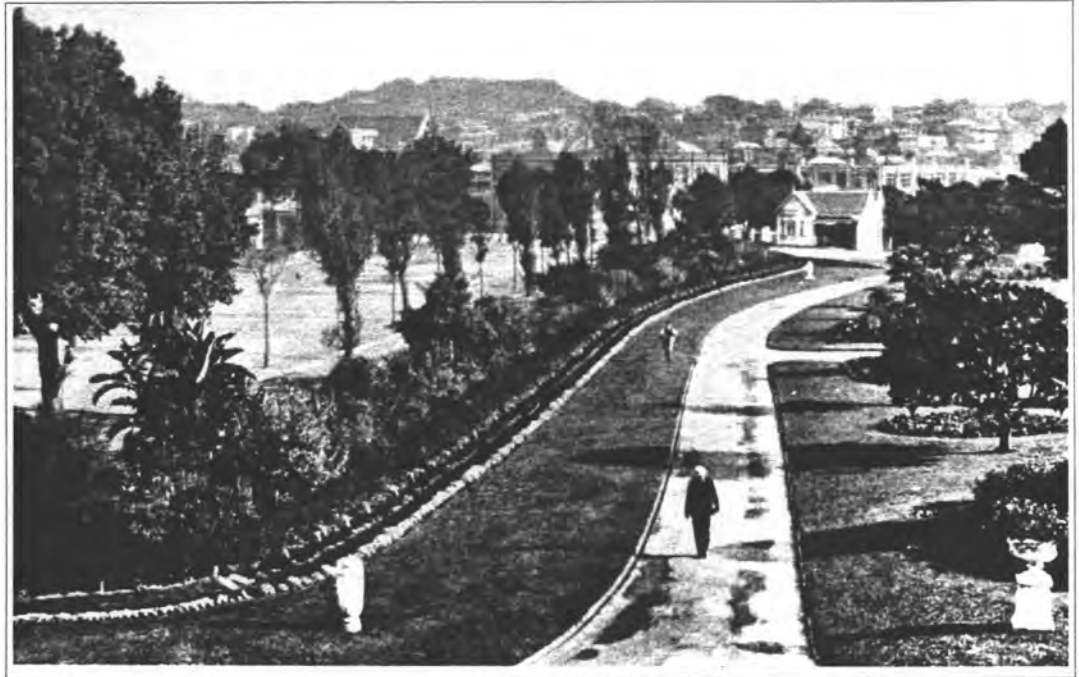


Figure 22 Princess Street boundary showing the "ribbon border" of bedding plants, *ATL*

Rockeries were constructed on parts of the northern and eastern boundaries of the park, and portions were 'renovated' during the 1930s. The Victoria Street rockery was planted with native veronicas and thirty trees, most of which were native, were planted in 1937.<sup>109</sup> [fig.23]

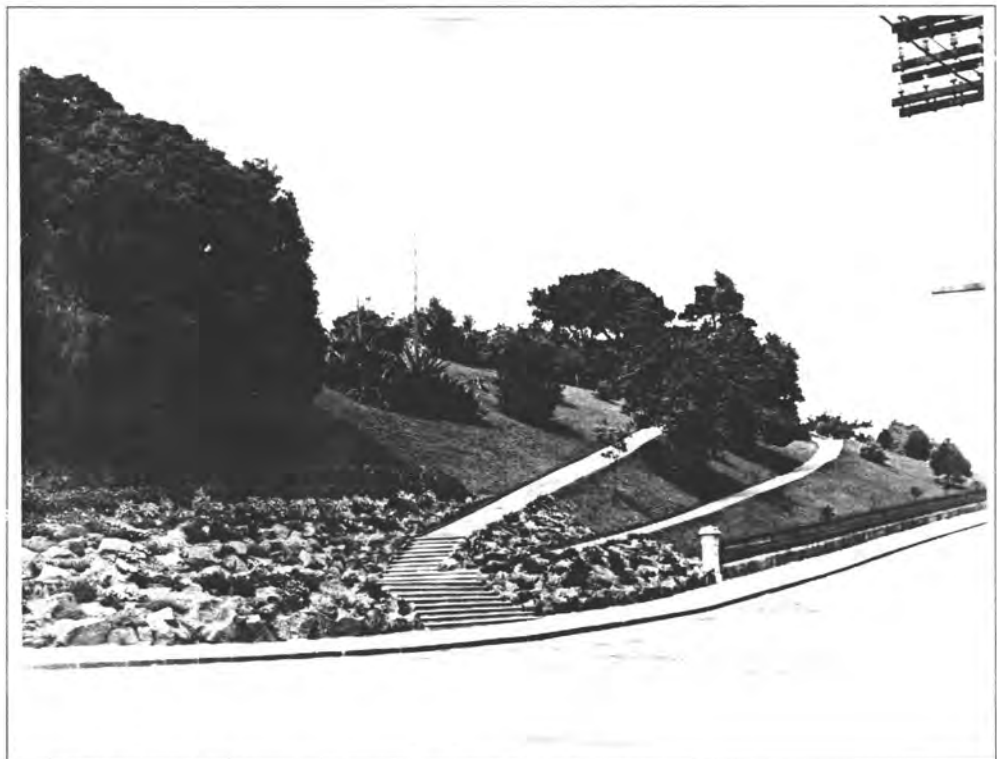


Figure 23 Rockery at the Victoria Street entrance to Albert Park, *APL W1630*

Bands were active in the park throughout the decade, and performances during 1939 included the Auckland Artillery band (7), 1st Battalion, Auckland Regiment band (1), Waterside Workers Silver band (1) and the Ponsonby Boys band (1).<sup>110</sup> In 1940, “a feature of the park, and one which reflected great credit on the staff was what was called the Centennial Bed. This was planted to represent the City’s Coat of Arms with the words Auckland New Zealand and the figures 1840-1940.”<sup>111</sup>

During the late war years, “the Park suffered severely, practically the whole area being dug up for slit trenches, tunnel shafts and the erection of buildings; an auxiliary water tank was also sunk.”<sup>112</sup> [fig.24]

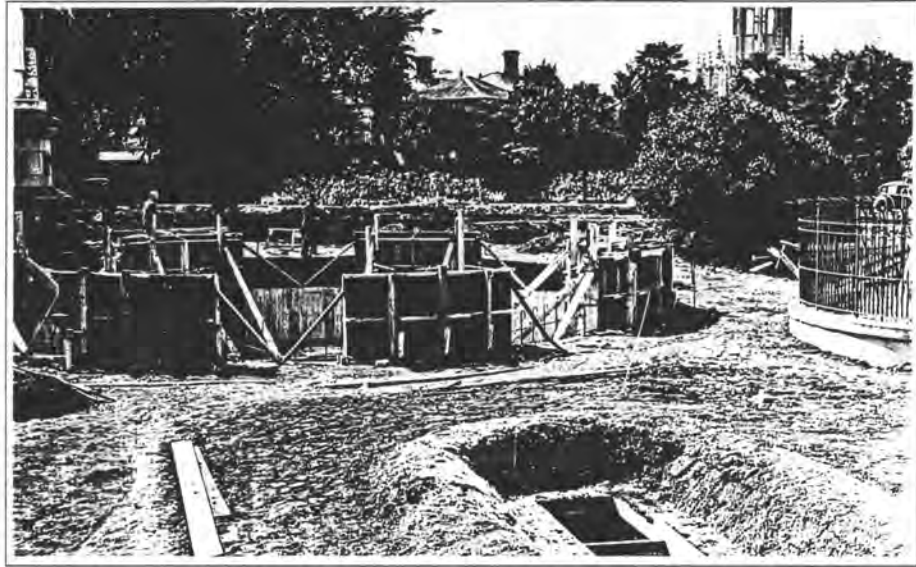


Figure 24 Excavations for slit trenches and other defences during World War II, AIM 8308

## POST WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT DAY

The earliest recorded proposed post-war renovation work on the park was in March 1945, on the Bowen Avenue frontage of Albert Park. The Superintendent of Parks, James MacPherson, responding to improvements suggested by the Chairman of the Parks Committee, advised that, “with the easing of the war situation and the re-filling of the trenches, Albert Park is regaining something of its former glory.” It was resolved that “the matter be deferred for a joint report by the City Engineer, Superintendent of Traffic and Superintendent of Parks.”<sup>113</sup> Public Pressure was applied, with a letter being received in May from Mr Walter Nash (then Acting Prime Minister), detailing a protest “signed by 12,000 citizens requesting that immediate steps be taken to have public reserves in the Auckland area restored to normal use.”<sup>114</sup>

Further public pressure came early in 1946 from a letter signed “Lover of Nature”, together with an enclosure from the *Herald*. The writer pointed to the lack of attention in maintenance of the Boyd statue, the statue of Queen Victoria and the marble drinking fountain.

The Superintendent's report went on to state that

"The maintenance of Statues in City Parks was not undertaken during the war period. During the time allied forces were stationed in Auckland, it became necessary to remove large vases in Albert Park to prevent further damage by irresponsible persons. Statues in Albert Park and the Cain and Abel statue in the Domain have, over a period of years, been damaged by vandals. The small Statuette of the Reid Drinking Fountain is at present under repair ... The Boyd statue has no furnished background save a worn out bamboo. [see fig.13] It will probably be shifted when general renovations to Albert Park are carried out."<sup>115</sup>

"Nothing can be undertaken until the tunnels are filled in and the trenches subside. The City Engineer's Department is at present formulating sketch plans for an improved finish to the Victoria Street tunnel entrance once the tunnel work is completed. Queen Victoria's statue is now dwarfed by a ring of overgrown palms, the stems of which, from a landscape point of view are no better than [sic] a series of telegraph poles. Many of the flower beds are too large, the palms in the border have leached the soil of all nourishment, A number of the street trees lining Princes Street are in an unhealthy condition. The old-time gutterings to the pathways are a danger at night and a home for perennial weeds. The meteorological observatory enclosure is an eyesore and should be removed. The writer of the letter can be assured that as soon as the tunnels are filled in a start will be made to bring Albert Park back to its former place as a prominent and colourful City Park."

In February 1947, the Parks Committee Chairman, Mr Coakley told the Committee that "Albert Park too should receive close attention this year to rehabilitate it completely ... No effort should be spared in making and maintaining the Park as a show place of Auckland."<sup>116</sup> This work of reinstating the Park evidently took place over the next two years.

In addition to his work for Council, McPherson also advised widely on garden management, including at such important sites as the gardens of Old Government House and Pompallier House in Russell during the 1940s and '50s.

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INNOVATIONS, DEVELOPMENTS AND THEORIES

Prior to the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi between the Crown and Maori tribal leaders in February 1840, New Zealand had been under the jurisdiction of New South Wales law for over a year.<sup>117</sup> Direct instructions from Britain, in the form of *The Royal Instructions* of 1840, stated that places should be set aside for recreation and health, and forbade the alienation of public land. Later, under clause 17 of the *New Zealand Government Act* of 1846, the Governor could, with advice from his Executive Council, cause to be marked out lands as

“Cemeteries or as places fit to be reserved for the embellishment of health of Towns or for the recreation of the inhabitants thereof, or otherwise for any public utility, convenience or enjoyment, and it is our pleasure and we do further direct you to require and authorise the said Surveyor General further to report to you what particular lands it may be proper to reserve ... as places fit to be set apart for the recreation of the inhabitants of any Town and Village ... of which it may be desirable to reserve ... [and] not permit or suffer any lands to be occupied by any private person for any private purpose.”<sup>118</sup>

These lands were to be called ‘Reserved lands’.<sup>119</sup> A process of differentiating classes of reserve land had begun, in which those classed as ‘Domains’ would rise to the top. One of the earliest recorded public notices in the Government Gazette detailing park management appeared in 1844, advising that

“The Governor directs it to be notified that the Ground hitherto known as the Domain will be called the Auckland Park, and will be open to the Public, who are requested to assist in preserving the Wood thereupon, and preventing injury to such Public Works as from time to time may be effected there.”<sup>120</sup>

Before New Zealand was divided into six provinces in 1853, Governor George Grey drew up the Auckland Municipal Corporation Charter in 1851. He said later of his decision, during a debate over the *One Tree Hill Reserve Bill* in 1886 that he believed that the City of Auckland and Onehunga should be one city or one borough, and he drew a charter making them one borough and conferring on that borough very valuable privileges. At the same time he set apart large reserves, providing parks and natural objects of beauty for the city, including One Tree Hill Domain.<sup>121</sup> A memorandum survives in the papers of Sir George Grey titled, “Auckland (City) Reserves, No 4”, and probably written by James Baber who says that,

“One Tree Hill, Mangere, Mount Smart, St. John and Hobson were not reserved by the Governor alone. Instructions came through Godfrey Thomas or Civil Commissioner Dillon. All reserved for public purposes.”<sup>122</sup>

During 1854, the first elected General Colonial Government replaced the non elected Executive Council that had made the above decisions. The new General Government, based in Auckland until 1864, introduced *The Public Reserves Act, 1854*, for regulating the management of certain lands reserved for the purposes in the several Provinces.<sup>123</sup> For example, the Canterbury Provincial Council passed the *Canterbury Association's Reserve Ordinance 1855*, which scheduled the jail, hospital, wharves and store, Immigration Barracks, Botanical Garden (23 acres) and Town Reserves of 897 acres - including Hagley Park.

This park was reserved forever as a "Public Park" and the Superintendent of the province could make regulations for the "use and preservation" of plantations, gardens and places of public amusement and for the "depasturing of cattle".<sup>124</sup> The Otago Province responded in similar manner passing the *Dunedin Public Land Ordinance, 1854*.<sup>125</sup>

Much of Auckland's public reserves fell under Provincial Government jurisdiction between 1854 and 1877, with Municipal bodies developing land from their own resources or legally transferring land from the Provincial Government pool. An example of this was Western Park which saw the City of Auckland granted the "Deeds Title" under *The Public Reserves Act, 1854*, of the site in 1858.<sup>126</sup> This land was fully transferred in 1875 several years after the site was developed as the Council's first public park.<sup>127</sup>

The General Government passed its own reserve legislation *The Public Domain Act, 1860*. This Act was drafted and passed by the Premier Edward Stafford. It allowed the Governors powers to be delegated to Domain Boards under recommendations from the General Government.<sup>128</sup> The Domain Boards would administer the majority of public parks or pleasure grounds at the turn of the century. The decisions made by the Domain Boards' regular monthly meetings were published by the ever vigilant local newspapers.<sup>129</sup>

These nineteenth century pleasure-grounds would be replaced by the early twentieth century reform park. This movement's presence began to be felt in the late years of 19th century when the "Town Planning" movement began to influence the form and function existing and new parks took. Aesthetic ideas were very strong and were called the "City Beautiful" and along with Progressive social reforms, dominated the period. It was a time of rapid change, especially in technology. David Tannoch (retired Superintendent of Dunedin City Parks) has said that, when he came to the Dominion in 1903,

"In New Zealand this was about the beginning of a new era of civic progress - electric trams were taking place of horse drawn ones... drainage schemes ... hydro-electric schemes ... Boroughs ... [amalgamation] it was only natural that there should be a demand for the amenities of life."<sup>130</sup>

Some of the key National and local government political figures as part of this reform movement represented the Auckland electorates including Sir George Fowlds, 1899 -1911 [Auckland City and Grey Lynn], A.M. Myers, 1910-1921, C.J. Parr, 1914-1926 and Ellen Melville, a City Councillor from 1913 to 1946.<sup>131</sup> They were supported by members of the active groups such as the Town Planning League, Education Boards and the Auckland Civic League but, as historian Erik Olssen has said, "The war shattered the belief in innocence, progress, and social evolution."<sup>132</sup>

The first modern New Zealand Town Planning Act would eventually become law in 1926 (with specific references to gardens and conservation).<sup>133</sup> By the 1930s new political ideas brought the first Labour government with the passing of the *Physical Welfare and Recreation Act, 1937*. Before and during World War II, Auckland City initiated a major "Survey of Recreational Facilities" under this act.<sup>134</sup> Regional planning was now the goal of one of the country's largest local authorities, with new additions of reserve land - now more generally being called "open space" - being added to the bank of parks.

Such land included considerable private land that was coming onto the market and purchased where there was an identified need (through the various studies made by Planners and Engineers that fill the Minute Book from the 1930s onwards).<sup>135</sup> Government loans were provided for local government to purchase the recommended site and construct the new facilities.

There were overseas standards set at this time for "neighbourhood" and "regional facilities", recommended by the "Town Planning Board in New Zealand." The Council Engineer's report of 1945 said, "The standard of 7 1/2 acres per 1,000 population is an ideal attainable only in the planning of new communities. While it is a desirable standard to be aimed at, there is no possibility of its attainment in built-up areas such as exist in portions of the City of Auckland except at undue cost."<sup>136</sup> As Graham Bush said of this period, "at the end of World War II an ambitious plan was inaugurated to augment such areas, sanction being obtained for a loan of £145,000 to acquire and develop some 300 acres. Upon completion of the programme in 1951, others were instituted and in 1956 it was announced that a further 500 acres of reserves would be created in the following two decades."<sup>137</sup>

Finally, some idea of the value placed on public parks in New Zealand comes from a major Local Government Select Committee Report in 1945. Under the subject of "Public Recreation Institutions and Amenities" the report says,

"Fundamentally, one of the most important phases of local-body activity in this direction [provision of grants or sums of money etc. for amenities] is the provision of parks and open spaces. These "breathing spaces" are fundamental to modern urban life... The day of the formal botanical garden is by no means past, the day of the planned open spaces, attractively yet usefully laid out, is just beginning. Perhaps the most important function at the present time is the education of the public in the effective use of these."<sup>138</sup>

## PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH ALBERT PARK

### STAFF

#### Frederick D. BROWN

Taught Chemistry and Experimental Physics, B.Sc from France, Leipzig and University of London. Studied Geology in Germany. Employed by the University College from 1883 to 1913.<sup>139</sup>

#### James SLATOR

James Slator came to New Zealand in 1860, when he set up the first steam threshing plant in the province at Mangere, and connected the first gas service at the *New Zealander* printing office in Shortland Street. He excelled in what is now practically a lost art, the preparation of illuminated addresses.

In his 1921 obituary in the *New Zealand Herald*, he was described as

“One of those pioneer citizens of Auckland who helped in no small way to advance the growth of the city was Mr. James Slator, who died on Thursday at his residence, St. George's Bay Road, Parnell, in his 88th year. He was born in 1834 at Rippingdale, Lincolnshire, and after serving his engineering apprenticeship went to sea for a number of years. Later he was engaged in mining, and was among the early diggers in the South African diamond fields. He was also in California, Ballarat, and Bendigo, and, coming to New Zealand, he went to the Thames fields. He married at the age of 26, and settled at Auckland in 1860. His share in public life was taken as a member of the Parnell Borough Council. Mr Slator connected up the first gas service in Auckland to the New Zealand office, in Shortland Street, and imported and worked the first steam threshing plant in the Mangere district. Subsequently he used the engine for a sawmilling plant at Hunua, but had to abandon it on the outbreak of the Maori war. In the course of a varied career he filled the positions of clerk of works at the construction of the Ponsonby reservoir, head city gardener, (in which position he won first prize for a design of Albert Park), and illuminator, addresses executed by him having been presented to the late King Edward and to King George. For eight years Mr. Slator was draughts-man for the New Zealand Railways, at Auckland, and was fellow and hon. life member of New Zealand Institute of Architects. The older generation of boating men remember him as an enthusiastic yachtsman. For a number of years he took a prominent part in Freemasonry, being past Master of the Lodge At. Andrew, 418, S.C. and secretary for the North Island S.C. He is survived by a widow and six children.”<sup>140</sup>

## GARDENERS

### LANDSCAPE GARDENERS

It is important to appreciate the authority which gardeners held in the 19th century, the high status of the landscape gardener and the different areas of expertise they held. This is clearly expressed by John Claudius Loudon in his 1860 edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Gardening; Comprising the Theory and Practice of Horticulture...Arboriculture, and Landscape Gardening*. In section 6324, entitled, ‘Patrons of gardening’, he refers to

“the landscape-gardener, or layer out of grounds; artiste jardinier, ingénieur des jardins pittoresques. This species of councillor gives designs for disposing of the plantations, water, buildings, and other scenery in parks or landscape gardens, and generally for everything relating to the arrangement of a country-seat, except the architecture of the mansion, offices, and other building; but in what respects the site of these, and the exposure of the principal fronts and apartments of the house, his counsel is required jointly with that of the architect.”<sup>141</sup>

#### William Clark GOLDIE: 1888 -1908

William GOLDIE was born in Millport, Island of Little Cumbrae, Scotland c1847. He died on 12 January 1926 in Auckland, aged 79 years. He probably arrived in Auckland with his brother Andrew Goldie about 1862. He had had experience on Scottish estates before he emigrated, and possibly also worked in Australia for a period:

“Mr Goldie has been trained from infancy in ornamental forests; that his father [David] was ranger in charge of one of the best estates in Scotland; that he paid a premium for his son's special education in forestry, which was completed on the estates of the Duke of Hamilton, and the Earl of Glasgow.”<sup>142</sup>

William Goldie was appointed Deputy Auckland Domain Ranger to John Chalmers in 1878 and continued to work for Council until 1910. While employed by the Council, he won (with James Slator) the second Albert Park landscape competition organised by the Auckland Improvement Commissioners. This plan was signed "Puriri" and is preserved in Auckland City Council Archives. Goldie later replaced the ageing Scottish Domain Ranger, forester and landscape gardener, who retired from the position he had held since 1862. (James Goldie - a cooper, and brother to William and Andrew - married a daughter of John Chalmers in Auckland.)

Four Auckland landscapes that are specifically linked to William Goldie are,

- i. The Constitution Hill park, late 1880s
- ii. Emily Place Park c1890s
- iii. Ranfurly War Veterans Home, Hillsborough, 1903<sup>143</sup>
- iv. Victoria Park c1905 -1908.

Goldie was also a contributor to *Bretts Colonists Guide & Cyclopedia of Useful Knowledge*, 1902 (Third Edition).

#### **Andrew GOLDIE**

On his arrival in Auckland in 1864, Andrew Goldie established the Rosebank Nursery on the northern slopes of Mt Victoria, Devonport. He placed a large notice in the *Daily Southern Cross* of 6 March, proclaiming “a thorough knowledge of Gardening in all its branches, acquired in some of the best Gardens in Scotland, and having had considerable colonial experience ... Gentlemen building in the country or suburbs” were requested “to communicate as early as possible to give time to have plans drawn out and submitted for approval.”<sup>144</sup>

He later established a nursery in Christchurch, and a Rosebank Nursery advertisement of July 1866 listed the names of both brothers, offering “Quicks!” from the south.<sup>145</sup>

#### **HUXFORD**

A trained English gardener, who under Mr Goldie, had for the "past ten or a dozen years", in 1902 been in charge of Albert Park.<sup>146</sup>

#### **William WELLS ( - 1888)**

Landscape gardener William Wells operated from about 1866 on the North Shore, after leaving Kawau Island as Sir George Grey's gardener. He established the Vauxhall Gardens, near Narrow Neck, Takapuna, as private pleasure gardens, open to the public. He is believed to have constructed the Greenwich Park or Copeland's Inn, "Pleasure Grounds and Flower garden, Parterre, Grottos and Summer House.”<sup>147</sup>



He was later employed as one of Auckland City Council's first permanent senior gardeners about six years before William C. Goldie,<sup>148</sup> from 1881 until his death in 1888.<sup>149</sup> Wells is recorded as having died in Albert House, Albert Park in 1888 to be superseded by William C. Goldie with the new title of "Superintendent of Parks". Since 1884 the Auckland Domain was administered by a Domain Board (set up by Edward Stafford in 1861) comprised of a minority Board membership from Auckland City Council and a majority of other local political representatives.

#### **BOSTON 1882 - c1905.**

Council invited applications from landscape gardeners for the office of park-keeper and, out of a number of applicants who had very good testimonials and lengthy experience, Mr Boston was appointed.<sup>150</sup>

In August 1882 *The Weekly News* said,

"The Albert Park is beginning to assume a more cheerful and attractive appearance. A number of trees are in process of being planted out by Mr. Boston, the custodian of the Park and his assistants. A number of native shrubs are being planted among the ornamental trees dotting the slope on the upper side of Bowen-street, while on the slope facing Coburg street flowering shrubs will in all likelihood be set out. There are no gates fixed at the entrances to the Park, and the result is that stray horses and cows finding their way in to great annoyance of Mr Boston, who is now getting them impounded whenever possible."<sup>151</sup>

The *New Zealand Herald* recorded in October, 1882, that "there are at present ten men employed on day labour on the grounds under the general supervision of Mr Boston, but Mr Wells of the North Shore, has charge of the beds, planting the flowers, &c."<sup>152</sup>

#### **George SMITH**

George Smith was employed between about 1880 and 1886, when he was dismissed by William Wells. The *Auckland Evening Star* of April 1886 in its report of the weekly meeting of the City Council noted

"Correspondence ... from George Smith complaining that Mr Wells had discharged him from his employment in the Park without the consent of the Parks Committee, and asking to be heard on his own behalf. He suggested that the Council should save £150 a year by letting the keeping of the Park in order by contract. The Mayor pointed out that Mr. Smith was not engaged by the Parks Committee, but by Mr. Wells. The Parks Committee did not think it necessary to hear Mr. Smith. Cr. Burns attributed the trouble to a discourteous letter Mr Wells wrote to Dr. Haines. The Mayor said he had a copy of the letter, and it was a most courteous one. Cr. Devore said that it would be a wrongful interference with the person in charge if they allowed every wages man who was dismissed to come there and make a statement. Cr. Garratt said this was not the first charge that had been made against Mr Wells: Referred to the Parks Committee."<sup>153</sup>

**Thomas Edward PEARSON** (?1857-1930): 1908 - 1930

William Goldie finally retired in 1910. He had been replaced as Park Superintendent in 1908 by Thomas Pearson, who was then the Government's most senior landscape gardener, based at Rotorua, and responsible for the design and management of Government landscapes, and gardens at Rotorua, Te Aroha, Hanmer Springs, and Queenstown. Specific Auckland parks associated with Pearson include Myers Park.<sup>154</sup> In order for Pearson, "to gain wider experience of landscape gardening he spent about two years" in a large nursery at Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, United States of America. During 1926, in a lengthy description of tree planting activities in streets and parks under his supervision he spoke of a successful experiment involving the planting of Japanese flowering cherries in Banff Avenue, Epsom, and Woodley Avenue, Remuera, noting that "these trees are extensively grown in the streets of California and their importation into New Zealand has given every satisfaction."<sup>155</sup>

His views were widely sought after, and the Chairman of the Hamilton Domain Board, 'invited' Pearson to visit Hamilton in May 1914, to "go over the parklands" and to obtain suggestions from him for a park scheme.<sup>156</sup> Pearson died in office in 1930.<sup>157</sup>

**George FILLMORE**: Foreman of Albert Park in 1920<sup>158</sup>

Also son G. J. Fillmore employed in Park c1940-60s. He wrote in March, 1949 an article titled, "History and Development of the Parks and Reserves Controlled by the Auckland City Council" in, *The Horticultural Bulletin*, Official Journal of the Auckland Horticultural Council.

**T. S. ALDRIDGE**: 1930 - 1945

T.S. Aldridge had been 'caretaker at Point Erin Park' during 1912 -14. M.J. O'Sullivan records in 1936, the bulbous plant *Lachenalia Pearsoni*, "a very fine hybrid pendula (m) x Nelsoni (f.) raised by Mr Aldridge, Curator of Parks, Auckland. 13 years ago, and named by him after Mr. Pearson, then Curator of Parks."<sup>159</sup> Mr Aldridge retired in 1945.

**J. A. McPHERSON**: 1945 - 1965

James McPherson's appointment was confirmed on 6 February, 1945. The Superintendent of Parks selection team included Professor T.L. Lancaster, Hon. City Botanist, and Mr W.H. Rice, Chairman, Auckland District Council, Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.<sup>160</sup>

Between September and October 1945 James McPherson was advising Professor Knight, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, on the "suggested rehabilitation of the grounds surrounding Pompallier House," at Russell, at the very time he was overseeing the removal of the War effort from the city parks. He prepared a six page report.<sup>161</sup>

Among others who have held the position of Head Gardener or Parks Superintendent is **George SMITHERS** (c1950), **Phil JEW**, and **Graham BRADBOURNE**.

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## CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

**A**lbert Park is a major urban site of exceptional cultural heritage significance, both to the city and region of metropolitan Auckland and to New Zealand as a whole. The site has figured prominently in the history of Auckland City as a military defensive site and then as a popular public recreational reserve. The significance of any place is conferred upon it by human understanding. This significance may be derived from the physical qualities of the place and its various features or it may come from historical associations with the site and its use over time. The cultural significance of Albert Park and its wider setting arises from many such factors, and these may be considered under the following headings:

#### historic/archaeological

- as a site of Maori settlement and cultivation prior to European contact
- as the site of a major military fortification based on a classical geometric defensive wall and incorporates physical remnants of this
- as the site of public accommodation for immigrants to New Zealand in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- contains relics and memorials of military campaigns in Europe and New Zealand
- includes commemorative trees thought to have been planted in 1908 by Captains of the various ships of the American "Great White Fleet"
- incorporates subterranean air raid shelters excavated in 1942 for public safety during the Second World War
- as an example of local authority civic works developed over a sustained period

#### aesthetic

- as an example of an urban park planned in the style of an Italianate pleasure ground,
- contains works of architecture which are characteristic of the date of the Park formation and which are substantially intact
- contains relics of a major collection of statuary marbles mounted in the park landscape between 1899 and c.1940, now much depleted and vandalised
- incorporates remnants of original landscape features and details which contribute to the aesthetic whole of the original layout and design
- contains commissioned pieces of modern sculpture, maintaining the tradition of public art in public open space

#### technical

- incorporates remnants of an original earthenware field drainage system laid out before the formation of the site as a public park
- contains Auckland's longest monitored weather recording station and is the longest sustained recording site in New Zealand
- as an example of the application of public works to create public recreation grounds in urban areas

#### social

- as a popular venue for passive recreation and social intercourse since the formation of the Park
- was used for a time during the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the accommodation of new immigrants

- as a site for political meetings and public addresses over time
- as (latterly) a site for popular music performance
- the City's first permanent gardeners, William Wells Boston and William Goldie, were appointed to maintain Albert Park

#### landscape

- an intact example of a planned urban park executed as intended by its designers.
- incorporates an historic landscape associated with both the traditional and European history of Auckland
- incorporates the effects of changes brought about by the "reform era" in park design and by other uses such as civil defence

#### arboriculture

- incorporates specimen trees of botanical significance
- incorporates specimen trees of historic significance
- incorporates notable trees replanted on the site of those originally planted in 1908 by Captains of the various ships of the American "Great White Fleet"
- incorporates vegetation and specimen trees of landscape significance

## IDENTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

### Criteria for Assessment - value

The significance of the Albert Park is recognised by its registration under the *Historic Places Act 1993*. It is desirable to distinguish those parts of the Park which are known to contribute to its significance from those which may be seen to confuse or detract from that significance. Each element or feature of the Park may be said to have some value for this purpose and may be analysed according to its contribution to a proper understanding of the place. The heritage value of each element may be defined in an orderly manner. Value is by definition a subjective view, but it is susceptible to reasonably dispassionate analysis under the following headings:

#### *TECHNICAL SIGNIFICANCE*

The extent to which the Park as a whole or a particular element demonstrates design and/or construction techniques or knowledge of the time, or incorporates items of special technical interest or significance.

#### *FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE*

Whether the particular function of a feature in the Park helps to explain the use of the Park or of the feature itself, or performs a particular environmental or social function.

#### *ASSOCIATION with SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PERSONS*

Whether a feature or element has clear association with particular events or persons in the history of the Park or whether such a feature or element reflects representative aspects of that history.

***AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE***

Whether a feature has aesthetic significance due to its contribution to the overall unity of the design of the Park, or whether an element of that feature makes a corresponding contribution to its aesthetic integrity, or has intrinsic aesthetic qualities which are valued by the community.

***NET HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE***

The degree to which a feature or element can be said to have an overall heritage value comprised of the above qualities.

**Degree of Significance**

It is possible to use these values in some degree to assess the cultural heritage significance of the Park as a whole, its principal features, and the constituent parts of those features - whether major elements or specific components. Since each part so described will possess differing levels of value for each of the five criteria listed above, it is helpful to tabulate these on a graded scale to indicate the relative *degree* of significance as follows:

value	meaning	policy implication
A	exceptional significance	items which must be reserved and protected at all costs
B	considerable significance	items which should be preserved and protected where they do not conflict with the conservation of a feature of higher heritage value
C	slight significance	retention of these items may be justified where there is no conflict with items of higher heritage value
D	not relevant	items which may be retained for functional reasons where there is no conflict with items of significance
intr	intrusive - obscures heritage value	items which should be replaced or concealed if practicable where this will assist conservation of other features and interpretation of the whole

The most significant indicator is ultimately that for Heritage, as a summation of all other values. These values can be used to assess the Park as a whole, or its constituent parts - whether major landscape features, specific architectural features or individual elements of these. The following schedule uses the above scale to assign a heritage value to the various principal elements of the site according to the assessed degree of significance of each. This assessment is intended to allow decisions on future conservation or reuse of the Park to be made on the basis of an informed understanding of the relative heritage value of each part. The significance of constituent parts of each item or element is also assessed as explained above.

The tabulation of the assessment follows the method proposed by Dr J.S. Kerr, as set out in the third edition of *The Conservation Plan* (1990). This proposes a single "net" heritage significance value for each element, space or item listed, derived as outlined above. A detailed assessment of the significance of principal constructed features (including the bandstand, cottage and fountain) is not included here. It is considered that such assessments should be made in the context of detailed assessments of each item in the form of a heritage inventory or specific conservation plan.

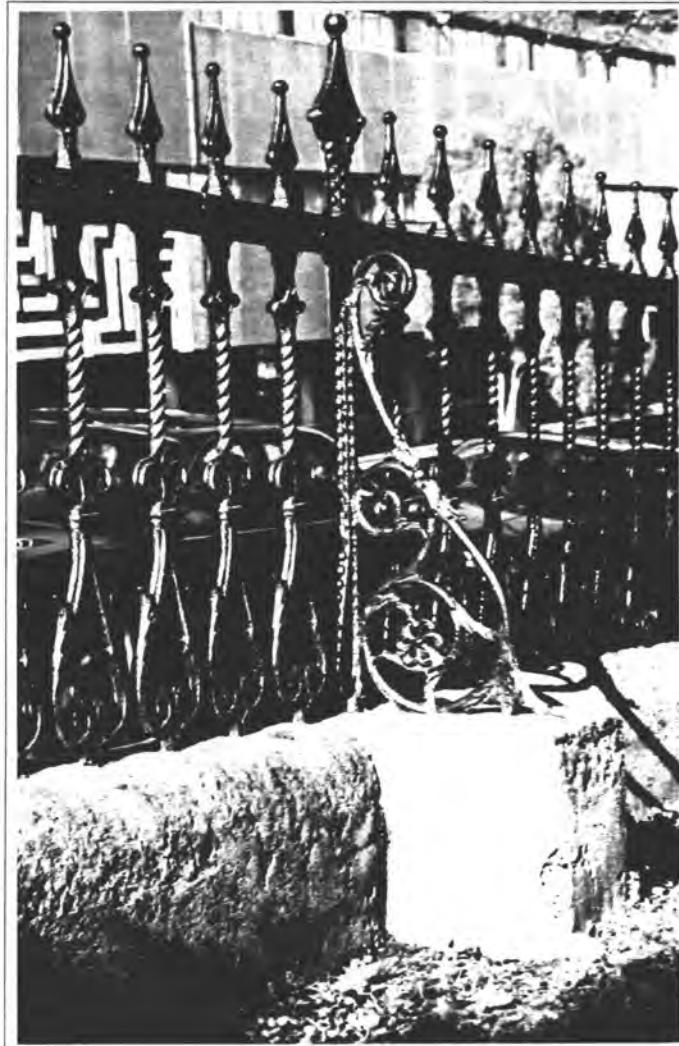


Figure 25 Remaining section of cast iron fence on Princes Street, *Salmond Architects, 1996*

## TABULATION OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

ELEMENT	ASSESSED HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
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### *street features*

cast iron street fences c.1881 - restored 1995 [fig.25]	A
steel and aluminium street fences	intr
street walls with stone copings	A
street walls with rendered copings	B
street walls of placed boulders	A
stone steps	A

### *internal paving features*

metalled and asphalt paths on original alignment	A
moulded concrete kerbs including surface water sumps	C
cast insitu concrete kerbs including surface water sumps	C
ceramic edging channel	A
rendered pedestals and balustrade	A
rendered steps	B
stone steps	A
exposed aggregate concrete steps	D
service access panels in paving	intr



Figure 26 The fountain in the early 1900s, APL Bin 255 - E.C. Binns collection

*principal constructed features*

original park layout of paths, beds, memorials and groundform	A
fountain, including base pool, surrounding paved area, steps and urns [fig.26]	A
Queen Victoria statue, plinth and surround	A
Band Rotunda	A
former Park Keeper's cottage	A
battery - remaining cannon [fig.27]	A
flagpole	A
Laidlaw floral clock 1953	A
public toilet	D
weather station - as a site	A
- fence and equipment	C
wooden gates	C
aluminium and steel enclosures to sculptural features	intr

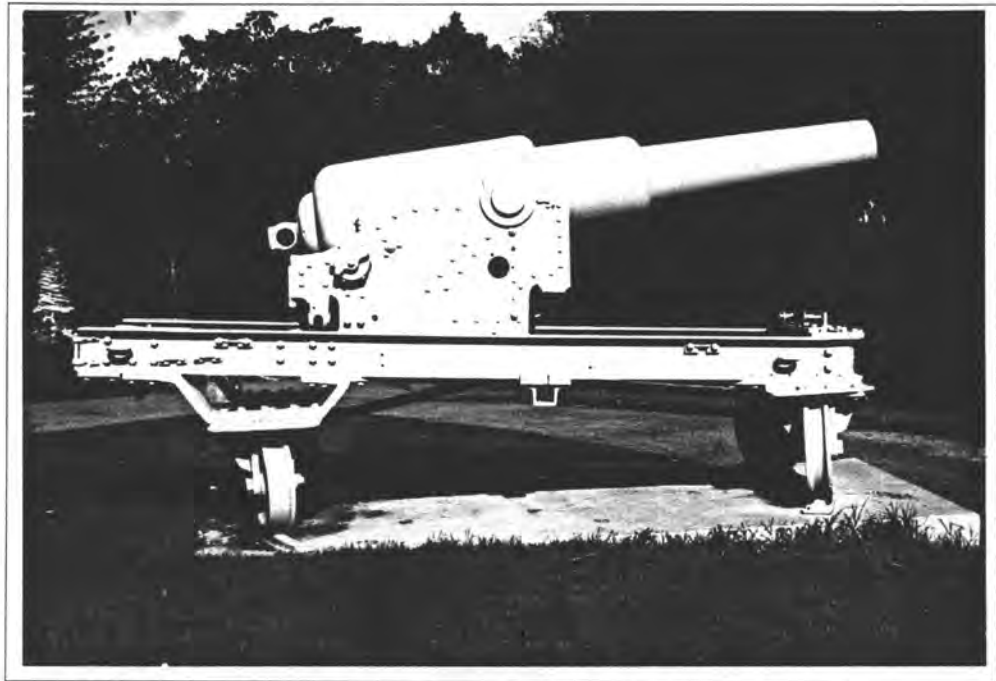


Figure 27 One of two remaining cannon, relocated on its chassis (cf. fig.12), *Salmond Architects, 1996*

*furniture*

lamps, including lamp standards	
- original gas fixture [fig.28]	A
- later electric fixtures [fig.29]	C
seats	
- original cast iron and timber	A
- modern strap steel and timber	intr
- modern hollow section steel and timber	intr
speakers' rostrum"	B



Figure 28 Sole original gas lamp fitting, *Salmond Architects, 1996*



Figure 29 Modern electric lamp fitting, *Salmond Architects, 1996*

#### *statuary and sculpture*

It is not proposed to make assessments of the cultural significance of individual items of public sculpture, as these have, by definition, cultural significance.

#### *trees and shrubs*

It is not proposed to make assessments of the cultural significance of individual specimen trees, as the significance of these is not considered to be differentiated. A list of trees of botanical significance includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Kauri - *Agathis Australis*, planted 16 August 1962 by Lord Cobham
- Atlantic Cedar - *Cedrus Atlantica Glauca*, adjacent to 1901 C.M. Reed memorial
- Cork Oak - *quercus suber*, probably planted at creation of Albert Park
- Common English Oak - *quercus robur*, on lower slopes below Bowen Avenue
- 'Windsor' oaks planted 4 April 1938 by Sir Stenson Cooke, Sir George Richardson and G.W. Hutchinson to commemorate the coronation of George VI
- Tree of Heaven (China) - Bowen Avenue
- Moreton Bay Fig - *ficus gracilides*, (or *f. Platypoda*)
- Devils Hand - *chirostemon platanoides*, 1970
- Chestnut-leaved Oak - *quercus acutissima*
- Fan Palm - *Washingtonia filipera robusta* - five on Princes Street frontage
- Common Elm - *ulmus procera*

## CONSTRAINTS AND REQUIREMENTS

The conservation and development of natural and constructed features of Albert Park and of the Park landscape as a whole, are constrained and limited by numerous factors which must be taken into account in the development of a coherent and achievable conservation policy. While these factors may, to some extent, limit the possibilities for conservation of original parts of the Park, they encourage preservation and maintenance intact of its various man-made features. By the same token, the continued use of the Park will be constrained by the necessity for conservation of features - both horticultural and constructed - which are identified as having cultural significance. Identified constraints include the following:

### CONSTRAINTS ARISING OUT OF THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARK

#### Historical

The historical association of the site with traditional Maori society on the Auckland Isthmus, its 19th century development as a substantial fortified military encampment, its brief use for the accommodation of new immigrants, its subsequent reformation as a public leisure park and its later importance as a site of public safety during the Second World War, and its evolution as a public work for community use and recreation means that Albert Park is endowed with multiple layers of historic significance. Features of the Park which sensibly recall this history must be preserved intact and may not be altered, except where intrusive non-original features are to be removed, or where original features can be reinstated. Historic botanical features, however, require to be managed and ultimately replaced according to a predetermined programme.

#### Social

The use of the Park is limited by statute to informal and passive public relaxation and such other social functions which are complimentary to those purposes and which are not destructive of these.

#### Architectural

Constructed features which were part of the original design concept for Albert Park should be restored and preserved as part of its ongoing management. The architectural character of these features should be maintained and recovered as part of this process, and the management of adjacent horticultural features should be similarly restored and maintained to conform to the original design concept.

#### Landscape

The landscape character and garden design of the Park, as laid out to the original design of Slator and Goldie, should be preserved in its mature form as part of a carefully managed programme for the maintenance and preservation of the physical and geometric qualities of the park. This means also that the open space qualities of the Park should be preserved and that existing open space should not be reduced by new constructions, new large planting or public art.



### **Horticultural**

It will be necessary to manage the important collection of mature specimen trees and shrubs to ensure their long-term survival and also their progressive replacement through interplanting with cultivated progeny of the existing. While the original concept for annual and perennial beds should be sustained, with the continued use of beds in critical locations, it will be necessary to allow for some freedom to add and remove minor beds from time to time.

### **Technical**

Albert Park incorporates a system of field drainage which was constructed prior to its layout as a public recreation ground. Relics of this installation should be recorded and, wherever possible, preserved in the course of the management of the site. Because the site has particular technical significance for the network of subterranean air raid shelters erected during the Second World War, it will be necessary to preserve these tunnels in whole or in part for their technical significance, and this consideration should influence any plans for their redevelopment or adaptation.

### **Archaeological**

The known history of the site gives good grounds for assuming that archaeological remnants exist of earlier occupation before European settlement. There are known remnants of post-European structures on the site. This means that where the opportunity arises for investigation of such remnants, it may be necessary to suspend continued horticultural maintenance pending detailed investigation and recording. It will be necessary ultimately to reinstate the Park landscape following any such investigation.

## **EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS**

### **Historic Places Act Classification**

Albert Park contains five features registered in Category I under **Section 22.3(a)(i)** of the *Historic Places Act 1993*. This registration applies to "places of special or outstanding historical or cultural heritage significance or value". Under **Section 34** of the Act, the Trust is required to notify the territorial local authority of all registered historic places located within the territorial area. The local authority is, correspondingly, required to notify the Trust of applications to carry out works on any site classified by the Trust. The site is recorded as an archaeological site. This means that, under **Sections 11 and 12** of the Act, any proposal to undertake new constructions or excavations other than those necessary for existing horticultural activity will require an authority from the Trust to modify the site

### **Resource Management Act**

In **Section 187(c)** of the *Resource Management Act 1991*, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust is defined as a 'Heritage Authority'. **Section 93** of the Act specifies that any application for a resource consent affecting a registered historic place must be served on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

### **Local Authority Registration**

Albert Park is not currently registered under the Auckland City Transitional District Plan. Its significance is such that it should be included in the District Plan when this is next reviewed. Current policies operated by the Auckland City Council actively support and protect heritage places and require clear and detailed justification for any change which may involve loss of, or alteration to, historic fabric. Registration of the Park as a protected item would require that Auckland City Council would have to be notified of proposed changes to the landscape and to specific features of that landscape. Such changes would be subject to consent under the *Resource Management Act 1991* and could require that some works be publicly notified.

### **Reserves Act 1977**

Albert Park is an historic reserve within the meaning of the *Reserves Act 1977*. The Act requires that every reserve shall have a management plan “to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, protection and preservation ... [and] the development ... of the reserve for the purposes for which it was classified”, and that any such plan shall be subject to continuous review

### **Auckland Improvements Trust Act 1971**

The defined area of Albert Park is protected under this act against alienation, and is required to be held by Auckland City Council as a “ground for recreation and amusement.” The Act was amended in 1973 to allow the Council to defer demolition of any existing building occupying land scheduled as reserve under the Act. Provisions in the Act regarding the former Synagogue were further amended in 1986 to allow this building to be leased and altered by tenants. All incomes from such tenancies are to be used for “works of public utility or ornament ... or in furtherance of recreation, education, science, and art, or for the improvement of any form of culture, or for the improvement or development of amenities for the public”.

### **Conservation Standards**

This study has been prepared to comply with the principles outlined in the *ICOMOS New Zealand Charter* (refer **Appendices**). These principles underpin the conservation policies recommended in this document, and all decisions relating to the conservation of the building and its site should be made according to those outlined in the charter. Because of the very great cultural significance of this landscape, all conservation works proposed for any feature of the Park will be required to be consistent with accepted international conservation practice, particularly as expressed in the *ICOMOS New Zealand Charter*.

## **CONSTRAINTS ARISING FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE OWNER AND OCCUPIER**

Auckland City Council, as Owner of the site, wishes to ensure the continued use of the Park for the purposes intended at the time of its design and formation and as required by statute. This objective is consistent with the objectives of this conservation plan and imposes no particular constraint on the ongoing use and management of the park.

## **CONSTRAINTS ARISING FROM THE CONDITION OF THE PARK**

Albert Park is an organic part of the central city. Among its principal features are living organisms which will continue to increase in size over time and will, ultimately, die. The natural habits of trees and other living species inevitably conflict with the alignment and structure of adjacent constructed features such as paths and steps. This may require that some constructed features will require to be re-formed from time to time and their supporting structure may also require to be reconstructed.

## **PROCEDURAL CONSTRAINTS**

### **Special Skills**

The conservation of historic buildings and landscapes requires special skills and training. Archaeological assessment and the conservation of historic elements of Albert Park require to be carried out under the direction of an professionally trained persons with recognised training, specialist skills and proven experience in historic restoration.

### **Maintenance**

On-going maintenance of the Park is essential to ensure the continuing stability of all features of historic significance and the continued well-being of its features following restoration. Maintenance practices for the park and its natural and constructed features will best be guided by a systematic management plan. Such documents require periodic (e.g. quinquennial) review to ensure that conservation maintenance remains appropriate and budgetary allowance should be made for this purpose. A Management Plan has been prepared in conjunction with this Conservation Plan.

### **Conservation Plan**

This conservation plan is a policy document for a publicly-owned site with very high cultural significance. Public scrutiny of the conservation process should be encouraged by lodging copies in an appropriate public archive. Copies of this document will require to be submitted with applications for resource consent and other statutory procedures.

It will be necessary to record conservation processes as they are carried out, and to take account of new physical evidence which is uncovered in the Park. It may consequently be necessary to revise relevant sections of this document and possibly to amend aspects of the conservation policy. This will require some budgetary provision. Similarly, it is desirable to review conservation policy from time to time, for example through a quinquennial review process.

## CONSERVATION POLICY

### CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

**A**rising directly from the Statement of Significance, natural and constructed features of Albert Park which have been defined as 'significant' should be preserved, restored and maintained. All work carried out on these features should be done in accordance with the definitions and articles of the *ICOMOS New Zealand Charter*. The policies set out in this section derive from an understanding of the provenance of Albert Park, its present condition, and the assessment of its cultural significance. These policies should, therefore, guide the conservation of the Park, its constructed and natural features, all further development on the site and all on-going maintenance and repair of these events. These policies have the following principal objectives:

- the preservation of the intrinsic character of the park, its spatial and layout character, and its component parts;
- the recovery of the essential character and appearance of the park so as to recall its original form but incorporating the inevitable changes wrought by organic growth;
- the discreet incorporation of absolutely necessary new works or elements which will enable the park to continue to be used as an historic site for public use and enjoyment in such a way as to cause no, (or minimal), loss of cultural significance;
- the establishment and implementation of a conservation process which will manage the on-going repair and restoration of damaged or missing constructed elements;
- the coordination of all design and maintenance decisions for the site to ensure that these are based on sound conservation practices and on consistent professional advice;
- the preservation and maintenance of all significant vegetation on the site to ensure that these are propagated in preference to later species of less significance.

### GENERAL APPROACH

In order to ensure that cultural heritage values are properly and successfully preserved over time, it is essential that internationally and nationally recognised techniques and methodologies for conservation should be adopted and implemented in a systematic way. The recommendations of this study are based on such methods and techniques and these are recognised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Auckland City Council. The following general policies are advanced to guide the conservation process:

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## OVERALL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

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### *objective 1* CONSERVATION PRACTICE

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To conserve and manage Albert Park and its natural and constructed features to conform to internationally recognized standards of practice and knowledge.

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- Policy 1.1** The Statement of Cultural Significance and the associated detailed assessments should be acknowledged as a basis for overall and detailed planning for both conservation of fabric and planning of new work.
- Policy 1.2** All adopted conservation policies should be based implicitly on the *ICOMOS New Zealand Charter* for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value.
- Policy 1.3** All work concerned with the conservation of historic elements on the site should be carried out under the direction of persons with recognized training, specialist skills and proven experience in conservation design, management and technology.
- Policy 1.4** There should be continuity and consistency of relevant conservation advice for all work on the site.
- Policy 1.5** The selection of contractors and other advisors for work on the site should be limited to firms, consultants or trades persons with proven expertise in their respective fields and experience in working with heritage projects. This should extend to contract management and administration.
- Policy 1.6** A planned systematic programme of maintenance for the site should be commissioned and adopted. Following its implementation, such a plan should be regularly monitored and reviewed at intervals of no greater than five years.
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### *objective 2* MAINTENANCE OF ORIGINAL PARK CONCEPT

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To maintain the original layout of the Park in the form conceived by James Slator and William Goldie, but as finally implemented. To incorporate those elements added over time which are associated with historic events and which have been identified in the conservation plan as having cultural heritage significance.

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- Policy 2.1** All planning decisions should be made in the context of an integrated development plan for the park and should be subject to a formal periodic review process.

- Policy 2.2** Original plans, combined with time series photographs and the results of archival research and physical site investigation should be used as the basis for ongoing landscape conservation and planting.
- Policy 2.3** Further investigation should be carried out to confirm the nature of original paved surfaces and associated landscape details.
- Policy 2.4** A surveyed plan should be prepared to locate and identify existing specimen trees, to be maintained on an annual basis, as a record of the location of trees in the park and to guide further plantings.
- Policy 2.5** A record should be kept of annual and seasonal developments in the grounds to assist the ongoing maintenance of these policies and to assist the maintenance of traditional planting philosophies appropriate to the site.
- Policy 2.6** Original constructed features of the Park which have since been removed to other locations, and the reinstatement of which is consistent with other conservation objectives, should if possible be recovered and reinstated on the site.
- Policy 2.7** The selection, layout and management of plants in the Park should conform with the intentions of the original design, but modified to reflect historic change associated with historical events.

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*objective 3* CONSERVATION OF SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

To conserve intrinsically valuable original features of the site, and new culturally significant features, with minimum intervention, and then only as required for their physical preservation or protection.

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Where it is necessary to carry out maintenance or repair of historic fabric or to remove or replace any part of a constructed feature for this purpose, the following policies should apply:

- Policy 3.1** All constructed features which are original to the Park or which are identified in Section 3.00 as having cultural significance value A(a) or B(b), or which are otherwise recognised as having cultural significance, should remain on the site and should be conserved. For such items, processes of **maintenance, stabilisation, restoration, reconstruction or reinstatement** should be employed in their conservation.
- Policy 3.2** Original or significant fabric should only be removed when there is no practicable appropriate alternative, and only that which is absolutely necessary should be replaced.
- Policy 3.3** Such fabric should, wherever possible, be carefully reinstated on completion of other conservation works to recover as closely as possible the original appearance of the affected feature.

- Policy 3.4** Original materials which are removed should be recorded, catalogued and safely stored until reinstated, or until relocated in an appropriate alternative location.
- Policy 3.5** Original parts of constructed features should only be replaced with new material where:
- a. the original material is structurally unsound, or no longer performs its intended function, or is a hazard;
  - b. the material is so badly decayed or damaged that its appearance will be unacceptable;
  - c. the behaviour of the material or element has a deleterious effect on other materials or elements, or on the feature as a whole;
  - d. elements no longer fulfill their intended purpose or fall seriously short of modern standards of safety.
- Policy 3.6** All causes of physical deterioration should be identified and arrested and measures taken to prevent their recurrence.
- Policy 3.7** All processes used to eliminate and repair such failures should be consistent with sound conservation practice and with the principles of the *ICOMOS New Zealand Charter*.
- Policy 3.8** Techniques used for repair should, as far as practicable, be founded in traditional technologies with recourse to modern technological intervention only where this can be wholly concealed, or where demonstrably indispensable for its continued satisfactory maintenance.
- Policy 3.9** All District Plan provisions related to the Park must be observed. Where substantial archaeological remains are discovered within the Park, these should be thoroughly documented, stabilised as necessary and preserved intact as remnants below the landscaped surface and, where these may be of traditional origin, then interested Maori groups should be notified before any other action is contemplated.
- Policy 3.10** Where archaeological remains are discovered within the Park which may have traditional significance, affected iwi groups should be consulted to determine appropriate actions.

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*objective 4* NEW WORKS AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES

To discreetly incorporate necessary new works or elements which will enable the park to continue to be used as an historic site for public use and enjoyment, in such a way as to cause no, (or minimal), loss of cultural significance.

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- Policy 4.1** All planning decisions should be made in the context of an integrated development plan for the park and should be subject to a formal periodic review process.

- Policy 4.2** No new landscape feature or activity should be added which may detract from or obscure the significance of the Park landscape.
- Policy 4.3** No new work or activity should be permitted which is inconsistent with the objectives and policies set out in this conservation plan.

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*Objective 5* PUBLIC CONSULTATION and INTERPRETATION

To provide a high standard of public information and interpretation to accompany all conservation works and to explain the management of the site over time.

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- Policy 5.1** Well-designed information material should be prepared for public release, incorporating high quality graphical material, photographs and brief text. Media interest should be regularly encouraged.
- Policy 5.2** A permanent display of selected archival material, drawings and photographs should be available at the site and in selected Council locations to further explain the significance and provenance of the property.
- Policy 5.3** Detailed proposals for conservation of the site and its features should be made available for informed public scrutiny and sufficient time allowed to receive public commentary.
- Policy 5.4** Copies of development and conservation proposals should be lodged with special interest groups with specific interest in the effects of the planning process on the site including ICOMOS New Zealand, the Auckland Civic Trust, and the New Zealand Institute of Architects.
- Policy 5.5** Copies of the approved version of this conservation plan should be lodged with the above groups and in public libraries in advance of the notification of development and conservation proposals.
- Policy 5.6** Consideration should be given to the implementation of a value management process as an acceptable form of public consultation for the development of future planning and management of the site.
- Policy 5.7** Traditional values intrinsic to the site should be acknowledged and explained as part of all material prepared for public education and presentation.



**Objective 6 USE OF ALBERT PARK**

To ensure that all uses of Albert Park should be consistent with its intended purpose and should neither be destructive of conservation values nor place significant features of the Park at risk.

- Policy 6.1** Organised activities which promote the congregation of large numbers of people in sustained intense activity should not be permitted where this may result in the destruction of, or damage to, features of cultural heritage significance.
- Policy 6.2** The use of the former Park Keeper's cottage should be generally related to the purposes of the Park, such as its management, or its public interpretation.
- Policy 6.3** No conservation or use should be contemplated for any constructed feature until a detailed conservation plan has been prepared for that feature.

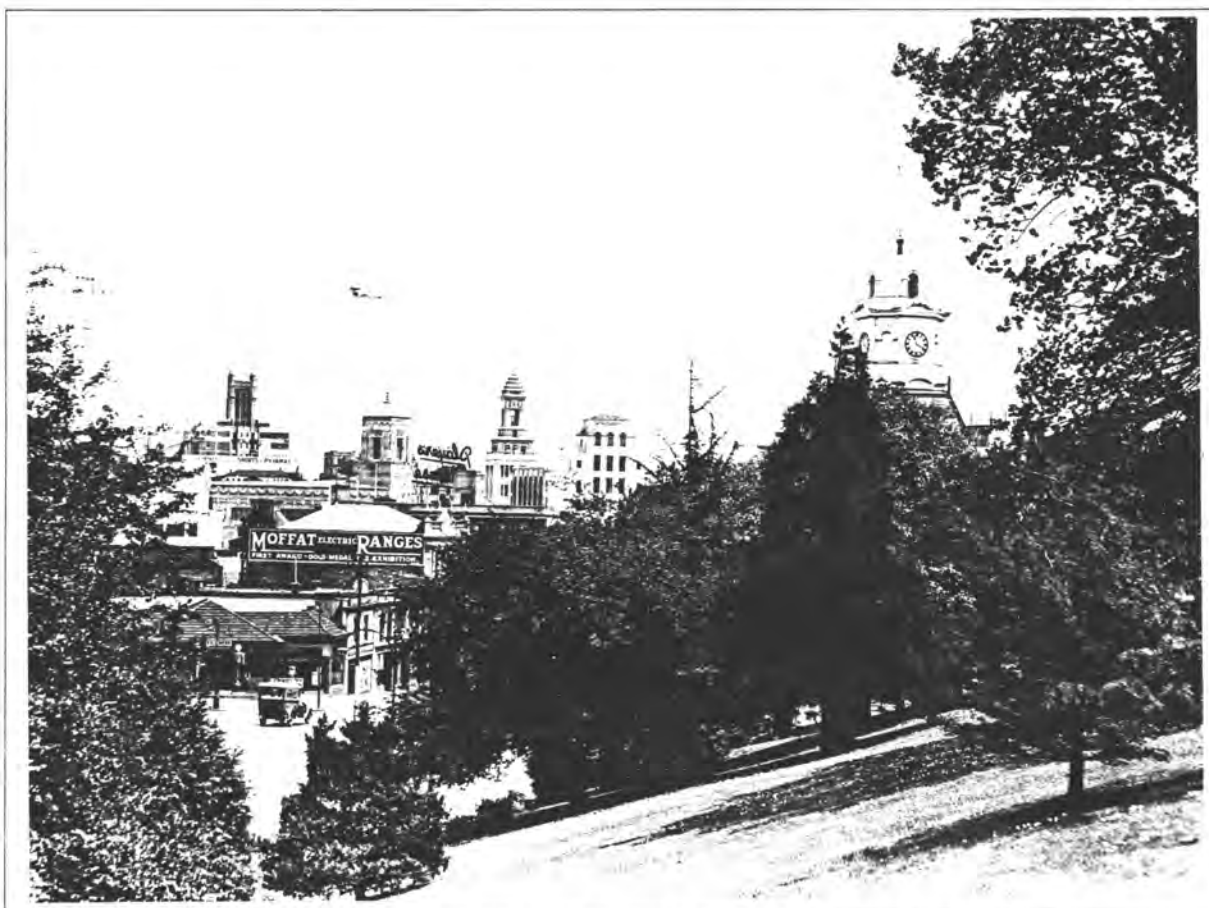


Figure 30 Wellesley Street embankment, looking west from corner of Princes Street, *New Zealand Herald* photo, AIM 3438

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## THE ICOMOS NEW ZEALAND CHARTER FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC PLACES

### PREAMBLE

New Zealand retains an unique assemblage of places of cultural heritage value relating to its indigenous and its more recent peoples. These areas, landscapes and features, structures and gardens, archaeological and traditional sites, and sacred places and monuments are treasures of distinctive value. New Zealand shares a general responsibility with the rest of humanity to safeguard its cultural heritage for present and future generations. More specifically, New Zealand peoples have particular ways of perceiving, conserving and relating to their cultural heritage.

Following the spirit of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (the Venice Charter 1966), this charter sets out principles to guide the conservation of places of cultural heritage value in New Zealand. It is intended as a frame of reference for all those who, as owners, territorial authorities, tradespersons or professionals, are involved in the different aspects of such work. It aims to provide guidelines for community leaders, organisations and individuals concerned with conservation issues. It is a statement of professional practice for members of ICOMOS New Zealand.

Each section of the charter should be read in the light of all the others. Definitions of terms used are provided in Section 22.

Accordingly, this charter has been adopted by the New Zealand National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites at its meeting on 7 March 1993.

### 1. THE PURPOSE OF CONSERVATION

The purpose of conservation is to care for places of cultural heritage value, their structures, materials and cultural meaning. In general, such places:

- i. have lasting values and can be appreciated in their own right;
- ii. teach us about the past and the culture of those who came before us;
- iii. provide the context for community identity whereby people relate to the land and to those who have gone before;
- iv. provide variety and contrast in the modern world and a measure against which we can compare the achievements of today; and
- v. provide visible evidence of the continuity between past, present and future.

### 2. INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE

The indigenous heritage of Maori and Moriori relates to family, local and tribal groups and associations. It is inseparable from identity and well-being and has particular cultural meanings.

The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of our nation and is the basis for indigenous guardianship. It recognises the indigenous people as exercising responsibility for their treasures, monuments and sacred places. This interest extends beyond current legal ownership wherever such heritage exists. Particular knowledge of heritage values is entrusted to chosen guardians. The conservation of places of indigenous cultural heritage value is, therefore, conditional on decisions made in the indigenous community, and should proceed only in this context.

Indigenous conservation precepts are fluid and take account of the continuity of life and the needs of the present as well as the responsibilities of guardianship and association with those who have gone before. In particular, protocols of access, authority and ritual are handled at a local level. General principles of ethics and social respect affirm that such protocols should be observed.

### 3. CONSERVATION PRACTICE

Appropriate conservation professionals should be involved in all aspects of conservation work. Indigenous methodologies should be applied as appropriate and may vary from place to place. Conservation results should be in keeping with their cultural content. All necessary consents and permits should be obtained.

Conservation projects should include the following:

- i. definition of the cultural heritage value of a place, which requires prior researching of any documentary and oral history, a detailed examination of the place and the recording of its physical condition;
- ii. community consultation, continuing throughout a project as appropriate;
- iii. preparation of a plan that meets the conservation principles of this charter
- iv. the implementation of any planned work; and
- v. the documentation of any research, recording and conservation work as it proceeds.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

### 4. CONSERVATION METHOD

Conservation should:

- i. make use of all relevant conservation values, knowledge disciplines, arts and crafts;
- ii. show the greatest respect for, and involve the least possible loss of, material of cultural heritage value;
- iii. involve the least degree of intervention consistent with long term care and the principles of this charter;
- iv. take into account the needs, abilities and resources of the particular communities; and
- v. be fully documented and recorded.

### 5. RESPECT FOR EXISTING EVIDENCE

The evidence of time and the contribution of all periods should be respected in conservation. The material of a particular period may be obscured or removed if assessment shows that this will not diminish the cultural heritage of the place. In these circumstances, such material should be documented before it is obscured or removed.

### 6. SETTING

The historical setting of a place should be conserved with the place itself. If the historical setting no longer exists, construction of a setting based on physical and documentary evidence should be the aim. The extent of the appropriate setting may be affected by constraints other than heritage value.

### 7. RISK MITIGATION

All places of cultural heritage value should be assessed as to their potential risk from any natural process or event. Where a significant risk is determined, appropriate action to minimise the risk should be undertaken. Where appropriate, a risk mitigation plan should be prepared.



## 8. RELOCATION

The site of an historic structure is an integral part of its cultural heritage value. Relocation can, however, be a legitimate part of the conservation process where assessment shows that:

- i The site is not of associated value (an exceptional circumstance); or
- ii relocation is the only means of saving the structure; or
- iii relocation provides continuity of cultural heritage value.

A new site should provide a setting compatible with cultural heritage value.

## 9. INVASIVE INVESTIGATION

Invasive investigation of an historic place can provide knowledge that is not likely to be gained from any other source. Archaeological or structural investigation can be justified where such evidence is about to be lost, or where knowledge may be significantly extended, or where it is necessary to establish the existence of material of cultural heritage value, or where it is necessary for conservation work. The examination should be carried out according to accepted scientific standards. Such investigation should leave the maximum amount of material undisturbed for study by future generations.

## 10. CONTENTS

Where the contents of an historic place contribute to its cultural heritage value, they should be regarded as an integral part of the historic place and be conserved with it.

## 11. WORKS OF ART AND SPECIAL FABRIC

Carving, painting, weaving, stained glass and other arts associated with a place should be considered integral with the place. Where it is necessary to carry out maintenance or repair of any such materials, specialist conservation advice appropriate to the material should be sought.

## 12. RECORDS

Records of conservation of an historic place should be placed in an appropriate public archive. Some knowledge of places of indigenous heritage value is not a matter of public record, but is entrusted to guardians within the indigenous community.

## CONSERVATION PROCESSES

## 13. DEGREES OF INTERVENTION

Conservation may involve, in increasing extent of intervention: non-intervention, maintenance, stabilisation, repair, restoration, reconstruction or adaptation. Where appropriate, conservation processes may be applied to parts or components of a structure or site.

Re-creation, meaning the conjectural reconstruction of a place, and replication, meaning to make a copy of an existing place, are outside the scope of this charter.

## 14. NON-INTERVENTION

In some circumstances, assessment may show that any intervention is undesirable. In particular, undisturbed constancy of spiritual association may be more important than the physical aspects of some places of indigenous heritage value.

## 15. MAINTENANCE

A place of cultural heritage value should be maintained regularly and according to a plan, except in circumstances where it may be appropriate for that place to remain without intervention.

## 16. STABILISATION

Places of cultural heritage value should be protected from the processes of decay except where decay is appropriate to that value. Although deterioration cannot be totally prevented, it should be slowed by providing stabilisation or support.

## 17. REPAIR

Repair of material or of a site should be with original or similar materials. Repair of a technically higher standard than the original workmanship or materials may be justified where the life expectancy of the material or site is increased, the new material is compatible with the old and the cultural heritage value is not diminished. New material should be identifiable.

## 18. RESTORATION

Restoration should be based on respect for existing material and on the logical interpretation of all available evidence, so that the place is consistent with its earlier form and meaning. It should only be carried out if the cultural heritage value of the historic place is recovered or revealed by the process. The restoration process typically involves reassembly and reinstatement and may involve the removal of accretions.

## 19. RECONSTRUCTION

Reconstruction is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of additional materials where loss has occurred. Reconstruction may be appropriate if it is essential to the function or understanding of a place, if sufficient physical and documentary evidence exists to minimise conjecture, and if surviving heritage values are preserved. Reconstruction should not normally constitute the majority of a place. Generalised representations of typical features or structures should be avoided.

## 20. ADAPTATION

The conservation of an historic place is often facilitated by it serving a socially or economically useful purpose. In some cases, alterations and additions may be acceptable where they are essential to continued use, or where they are culturally desirable, or where the conservation of the place cannot otherwise be achieved. Any change should, however, be the minimum necessary and should not detract from the cultural heritage value of the place. Any alterations and additions should be compatible with original fabric but should be sufficiently distinct that they can be read as new work.

## 21. INTERPRETATION

Interpretation of a place may be appropriate if enhancement of public understanding is required. Relevant protocol should be complied with. Any interpretation should not compromise the values, appearance, structure or materials of a place, or intrude upon the experience of the place.

## 22. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this charter

*adaptation* means modifying a place to suit it to a compatible use, involving the least loss of cultural heritage value.

<i>conservation</i>	means the processes of caring for a place so as to safeguard its cultural heritage value.
<i>cultural heritage value</i>	means possessing historical archaeological, architectural, technological, aesthetic, scientific, spiritual, social, traditional or other special cultural significance, associated with human activity.
<i>maintenance</i>	means the protective care of a place.
<i>material</i>	means physical matter which is the product of human activity or has been modified by human activity.
<i>place</i>	means any land, including land covered by water, and the airspace forming the spatial context to such land, including any landscape, traditional site or sacred place, and anything fixed to the land including any archaeological site, garden, building or structure, and any body of water, whether fresh or seawater, that forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand.
<i>preservation</i>	means maintaining a place with as little change as possible
<i>reassembly</i>	means putting existing, but dismembered, parts back together
<i>reconstruction</i>	means to build again in the original form using old or new material
<i>reinstatement</i>	means putting components of earlier material back in position.
<i>repair</i>	means making good decayed or damaged material.
<i>restoration</i>	means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state by reassembly, reinstatement and/or the removal of extraneous additions.
<i>stabilisation</i>	means the arrest of the processes of decay.
<i>structure</i>	means any building, equipment, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the land.

ICOMOS New Zealand encourages the wide use of its Charter in conservation plans, heritage studies and other documents relating to the conservation of places of cultural heritage value. Inclusion of the Charter does not, however, constitute an endorsement of the report in which the Charter appears.

## BRIEF

The Brief for this study was received in a letter from Auckland City Council. This set out the background, scope and purpose of the brief and matters to be considered. The brief covered both the Management Plan and the Conservation Plan and established a timetable for completion and submission of completed reports.

The brief reiterated that "Albert Park is one of the prime heritage places in terms of both Maori and European pre-history and history of Auckland. It is also a premier park." and that "because of its heritage importance it is necessary that a conservation plan is prepared for the park so that conservation policies can be derived to provide protection for all of its attributes for the future."

Reference was made to the provisions of the Proposed Isthmus District Plan covering the preparation of conservation plans. This document has been prepared to meet that standard.

## METHODOLOGY

This conservation plan for Albert Park is based on the principles set out in the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Historic Places. The structure of the document follows the model developed by Dr J.S. Kerr in his authoritative study *The Conservation Plan*.

## IDENTITY OF CONTRIBUTORS

This study is the work of a multidisciplinary group of firms with special skills in the conservation and management of natural and heritage property. The group has combined to coordinate the relationship between this Conservation Plan and the accompanying Management Plan. Contributing practices are:

- John Adam, garden historian;
- Boffa Miskell (Auckland), environmental planners and landscape architects;
- Clough and Associates, archaeologists;
- Melean Absolum Limited, landscape architects;
- Salmond Architects, conservation architects, Devonport.

Historical research for the project has been carried out by John Adam, Rod Clough, Amiria Salmond and Jeremy Salmond. The conservation plan has been edited by Jeremy Salmond. The Management Plan has been prepared by Rachel de Lambert and Melean Absolum.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The contributors are grateful to a number of persons and institutions for assistance during the research and preparation of the two documents. Planning staff of Auckland City Council have been particularly helpful and encouraging, especially the Departments of District and Neighbourhood Planning and Conservation and Urban Design. Valuable assistance has been provided by staff of the Auckland Public Library, the Auckland Museum Library and the Auckland Public Library Archives Department.

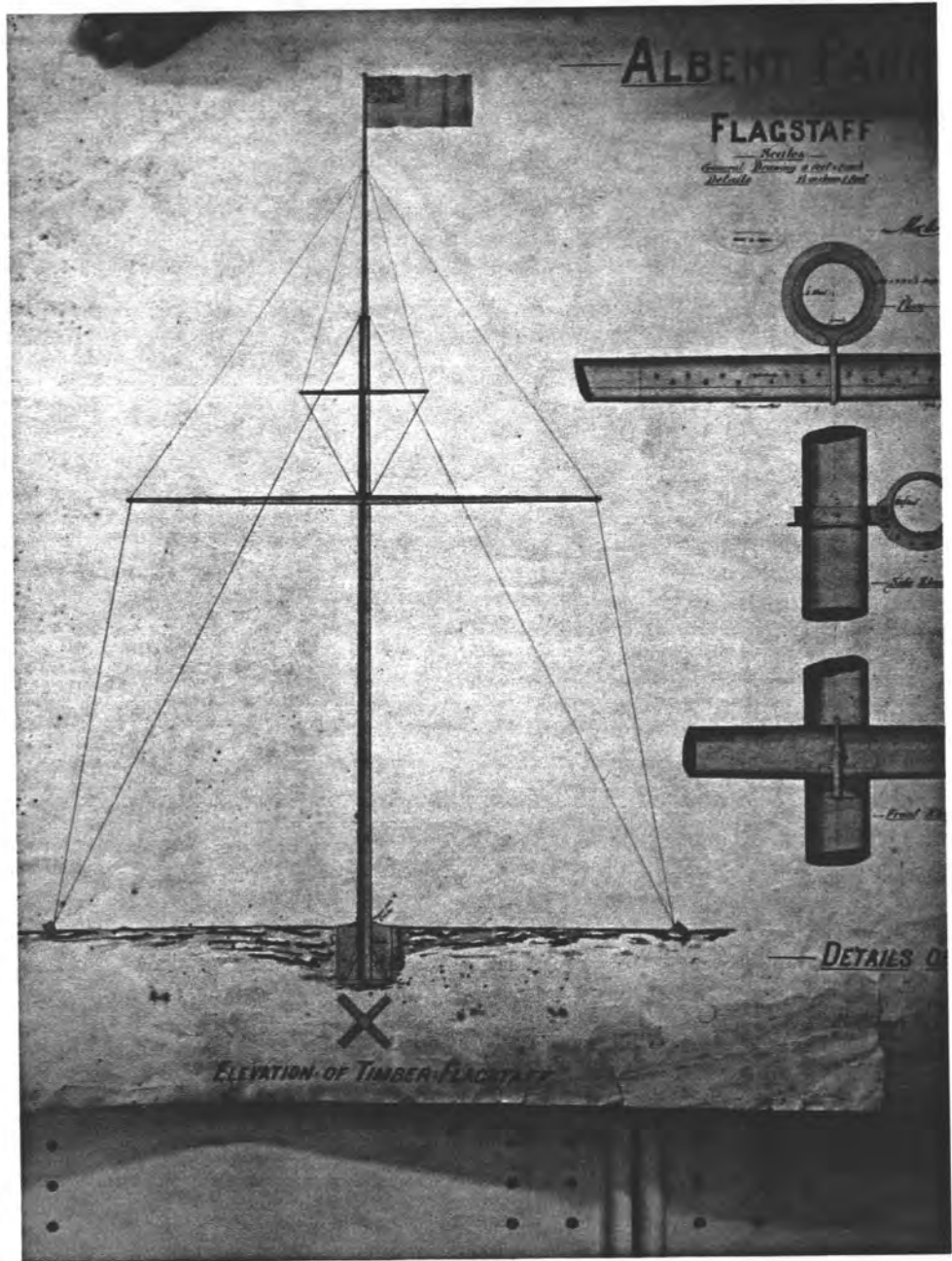
## CHRONOLOGY

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- 1840 Early European settlers find "not a sign of human habitation" in the area which becomes the central business district
- 1850 Soldiers gardens are a conspicuous feature of site
- 1851 George Grey's Auckland Municipal Charter [NZer, 6 Sept. 1851 p.4 C1]
- 1856 Auckland Domain "Botanic garden" est. near ponds
- 1856 Cricket Ground wicket construction
- 1858 Title Deeds for future Western Park Land probably leased/rented
- 1860 *The Public Domain Act, 1860* - applied, in part, to Auckland Domain and Government House grounds.  
April: 700 men of 65th Regiment arrive at Albert Barracks
- 1870 Dyson, R W. (1870) Utilisation of the Albert Barracks. [*The Daily Southern Cross*, 11 November, 1870. Page 3. Column 2]  
April: demolition of Barracks under way
- 1871 *The Auckland Military Reserves Act, 23 acres scheduled under The Public Domains Act, 1860, Report of the Military Reserves Committee. 1871.* Auckland Provincial Council Archives. Session 27. Auckland Public Library. 1p.  
The Auckland Domain Board [Est. 1861-1893] were administering the site through 1871 to about December 1872, when newly established Auckland Improvement Commissioners took control. Domain Board represent General Government. Commissioners were Provincial Government which was abolished in 1877.
- 1872 25 October: *The Auckland Improvement (Albert Barracks Reserves) Act* [Auckland Improvement Commissioners hold meeting in December]  
January: Caledonian Games auspices Auckland Scottish Volunteers  
December: Premium of 30 pounds offered for competitive plans.
- 1873 January: AIC select four plans, "*An Placet*", "*Rus in Urbe*", "*Mahomet*" and "*Floreat*".  
Andrew Goldie's landscape proposal to plant Flagstaff hill.  
December: contract let for destruction of Barrack wall.
- 1874 Lime trees being planted by AIC on west side of Princes Street [December]  
June: R.W. Dyson lectures to Auckland Institute - "A Few Notes on Trees"
- 1875 *The Auckland City Endowments and Reserves Act, 1875*  
November: building sites offered for sale in the Albert Park Reserve.
- 1877 Provincial Govt. abolished

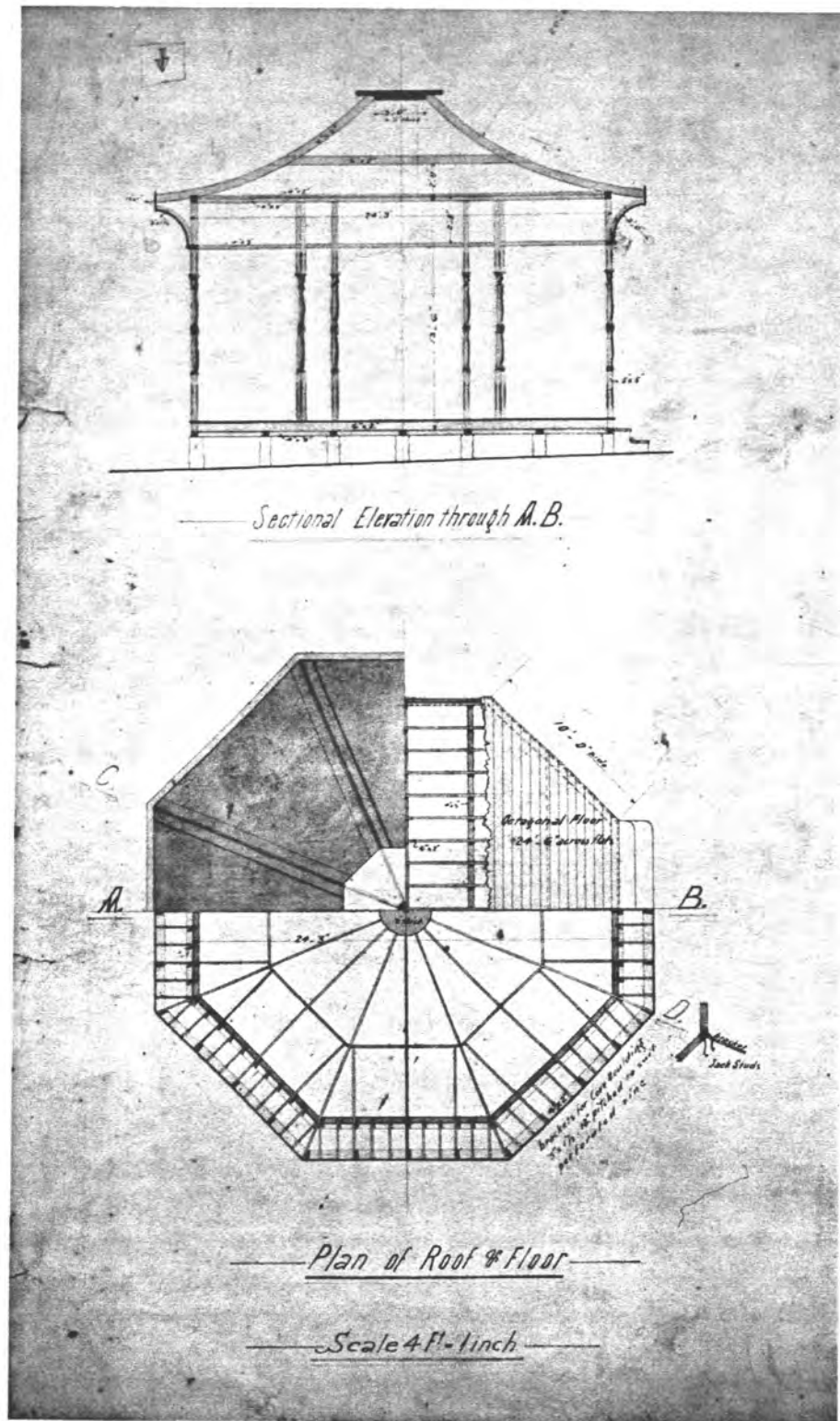
- 1878 July: AIC calls for plans for the best laying-out of the Albert Barrack reserves for Recreation and Cricket Ground  
 August: £10 prize to plan signed by *Puriri* (the new Deputy Ranger of the Auckland Domain William Goldie)  
 £10 prize for a competitive plan for a Carriage Drive in Auckland Domain
- 1879 Western Park, Ponsonby opens [Competition held in 1873 ]  
 May: "Asmodeus" quotes £50,000 borrowed to form a park.  
 December, 19: AIC relinquish control of park
- 1880 May: Nine cricket clubs petition CC "to plant the Park with trees, they would cause a cricket ground for practice to be reserved..."  
 June: Resolution from City District School Committee re playground for children  
 October: tree debate
- 1881 January: new competition advertised for the "best design for laying out Albert Park".  
 March: CC announce award of £10 to James Slator and William Goldie for plan titled '*Fodi aut Morire Porci*'
- 1882 August: Native trees planted on Bowen Avenue.
- 1884 Hobson Street tree debate Auckland Domain Board restructured
- 1887 26 March: City Library and Art Gallery opens.
- 1888 Metropolitan Ground, behind Old Government House in use until after 1919-1925  
 W. Wells dies  
 February: W Goldie advised on to, "supervise all work in the Albert Park"
- 1893 Auckland Domain Board extinguished and absorbed into Auckland City.
- 1896 A few pine trees felled on slopes near flagstaff to "give a better view of harbour..."
- 1897 October: Deputation to preserve park.
- 1899 Auckland Scenery Conservation Society founded
- 1899 Queen Victoria statue constructed - unveiled 24 May.  
 Twenty four pieces of ornamental pottery gifted by Trustees of Mrs Boyd  
*Auckland City Borrowing Act, 1899*, [poll taken on 28 Nov. 1899] - £100,000 borrowed].
- 1903 CORNWALL PARK opened in August
- 1905 A special Advisory Committee reports to the Streets Committee. Report is sourced to a Professor Brown; Mayor Myers says, "the public might know the policy of the Council in connection with the various city parks..."

- 1905 *Scenery Preservation Act, 1905*  
VICTORIA PARK opened, 20 December
- 1908 Thomas Pearson Parks Supt. appointed  
The American 'Great White Fleet' visits and memorial trees are planted in park.
- 1909 *Auckland City Loans Consolidation and Empowering [Act] 24 Dec, 1909.* "for further laying out and improving of the Albert Park, Victoria Park, Western Park, Bay Field Park, and the Auckland Domain, three thousand pounds...."
- 1910 William Goldie retires
- 1912 August: PARNELL PARK opened
- 1914 Palm trees possibly planted between now and 1920.
- 1915 January 28: MYERS PARK opened
- 1919 March: VICTORIA PARK opened
- 1921 James Slator dies
- 1922 Municipal and Official Handbook published including chapter "Parks and Recreation reserves." by T.E. Pearson
- 1925 "substitution of rockeries and gardens for the old iron fences on all frontages has done much to make this one of the most beautiful gardens under the councils control. The removal of the fences has made Princes Street the main frontage to the park whereas formerly it was merely a back boundary..."
- 1926 A Civic Centre. Council's New Project. Albert Park Area. Leases to be Resumed. Revenue from Old Site. To be Leased or Sold.  
ii. Opinions on New Plan. Leading Architects View
- 1930 T.E. Pearson dies in office - Deputy Tom Aldridge takes charge
- 1937 *Physical Welfare and Recreation Act, 1937* - [Auckland City initiates Survey of Recreational Facilities under this act]
- 1938 "To commemorate the Coronation of King George VI these Windsor oaks were planted on 4 April, 1938 by Sir Stenson Cooke, Sir George Richardson & Mr G Hutchison CMG. Plaque presented by the Tree Society 1958 " [Two oaks seem to survive near plaque today]
- 1941 Musick Point Memorial opened
- 1943 Savage Memorial gardens opened
- 1945 Tom Aldridge retires and James McPherson appointed as new Supt. of Parks in February.
- c1960 Kauri tree planted by Governor General.



Contract drawing of Albert Park flagpole, Auckland Public Library







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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



*Albert Park Conservation/Management Plan:  
Archaeological Assessment*

*Prepared by*

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*6 December, 1996*

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### **Albert Park Conservation/Management Plan: Archaeological Assessment**

Albert Park is situated on the remains of Rangipuke, a volcanic cone overlooking the centre of the city. It covers approximately half of the area formerly defined by the walls of Albert Barracks (Figure 1), which is recorded as archaeological site R11/833 on the New Zealand Archaeological Association's Site Record File. Prior to the construction of the Barracks, little is known of the area. There is no indication that it was one of Auckland's pa sites, although it is a short distance from Te Reuroa ('the long outer palisade'), a pa where the High Court now stands. It is also on the ridge which runs down to the former Point Britomart, where a pa known as Tangihanga Pukeaa ('the sound of the war Trumpet') was recorded.

The Park in its entirety must be regarded as an archaeological site, both because archaeological evidence of the Barracks will still be present beneath the surface and because much of its present layout derives from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The map of the Barracks derived from a survey by Frissell in 1871 overlaid on the present day street plan demonstrates that over 80% of the Barracks buildings were within the boundaries and to the southern end of the park (Figure 2).

#### ***Albert Barracks***

With its solid bluestone basalt perimeter wall Albert Barracks was a prominent and impressive construction: a visual focus in addition to being a centre of military and social activities for the growing town of Auckland.

Using basalt from the Mt Eden quarry, construction began in late 1846 to early 1847. Construction of buildings continued for over a decade (Figures 3 and 4) and the wall was completed sometime around 1852. Maori stonemasons and builders were used extensively in the construction of the walls, wells and buildings of the Barracks (Coates 1990:6-9).

With the removal of the military threat, the seat of government shifted to Wellington in 1865, the cost of maintaining the regiments was reviewed and a decision was taken to abandon the Barracks. During 1871 and 1872 the walls and many of the buildings were removed or demolished and the materials used in other constructions around the city. However, some of the buildings remained on the site for many years and were used variously for police or educational purposes (Figure 5). None exist today and of the barracks wall only 85m of an original 1300m still remain in the grounds of Auckland University.

### *Archaeological Investigations*

Excavation for air raid shelters at the beginning of the WWII, with deep tunnels driven in from the Art Gallery, struck a well wall estimated to be some 27m (90ft) deep (Figure 6). The water which still filled the shaft was described as clear and sweet. A drain was installed to remove the water to the main drain in Wellesley St.

Small areas of Albert Barracks have been the subject of archaeological investigations on three occasions (Bulmer 1979; Nichol 1980?(nd); Coates 1990). However, only the latter two were within the bounds of Albert Park. The purpose of both investigations was interpretation and presentation of aspects of the Park's history, in particular the period when it was the military barracks.

Nichol excavated the remains and surrounds of one of the early wells (adjacent to the Barracks gaol, presumably constructed c.1846) and recovered evidence which revealed a sequence of events and enabled a reconstruction of the well. The well was associated with a path which must have been laid after arrival of the 50<sup>th</sup> regiment in November 1863, since military artefacts relating to the 50<sup>th</sup> were found within it. The path was rich in artefacts including knives; scissors; razors; clay pipes (from Britain, Europe, Australia and America) (Figure 7); eating utensils carved with the initials of soldiers; and many objects from popular games: marbles, dice, dominoes and chess. All these provided insights into the individuals and the life they lived within the barracks, while faunal remains provided information on diet. A large assemblage of military insignia including shako plates, cap badges, and brass and pewter buttons unravelled aspects of the military history. The units identified from the artefacts



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Marines, Royal Sappers and Miners, Royal Engineers, Military Train and Commissariat staff.

Coates' investigation of the guardhouse and northern gate considered the possibility of public presentation of part of the Barracks, particularly in the light of an original intention to preserve part of the wall and the northern gate as a symbol of its former function (Coates 1990:1).

“At last the fiat has gone forth, and the old and well remembered Barracks wall is to be ruthlessly destroyed - the monument to the Maoris' industry is to be taken away on the shortest notice and the north gate, bearing a Maori inscription, alone left to tell the tale of the former use of these defensive stoneworks.” NZ Herald 6<sup>th</sup> March 1873.

Both investigations confirmed that there still exists considerable stratigraphic and material remains from the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although outside the boundaries of the Park, Bulmer's investigation (1979) had also confirmed this and it was noted that the topsoil over the entire area (between 9 and 11 Symonds St) still contained material relating to the Barracks. Hence considerable archaeological potential still exists within the Park. This potential is increased by the detailed information existing in Frissell's survey notebook (Figure 8), which provides evidence not only of the exact location of individual structures in the Barracks, but also of their function and construction materials. Hence, it is possible to fine tune archaeological interpretation by correlating the excavated materials with the information regarding function and construction methods contained in the notebook.

Rubbish pits associated with the Barracks would not be recorded, but are a possibility anywhere within the Park. It is possible that remote sensing techniques could provide us with an guide to the patterning of subsurface remains and a trial study is suggested.

### ***Conclusions***

Apart from landscaping it is clear from the brief archaeological incursions that considerable material culture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Barracks has been preserved under the lawns and in the form of the Park. In terms of present practices only the creation

of new paths and flower beds and the planting of new trees (general landscaping) and the introduction of new sculpture and facilities can intrude into the record of the past. It is therefore an important aspect of the conservation plan to define those areas which are likely to contain a greater concentration of material relating to the past. The Frissell overlay should be used as a guide in the identification of these areas. There is a clear indication that the southern portion of the Park will contain evidence of the former Barracks structures along with varying concentrations of material remains relating to that period.

Each archaeological assessment could provide part of a mosaic of information relating to the Park's history and in particular the layout of the barracks and the lifestyle of those associated with it. Archaeological assessment could also provide valuable insight into the early design of the park and assist in returning it to its 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century design if this was desired.

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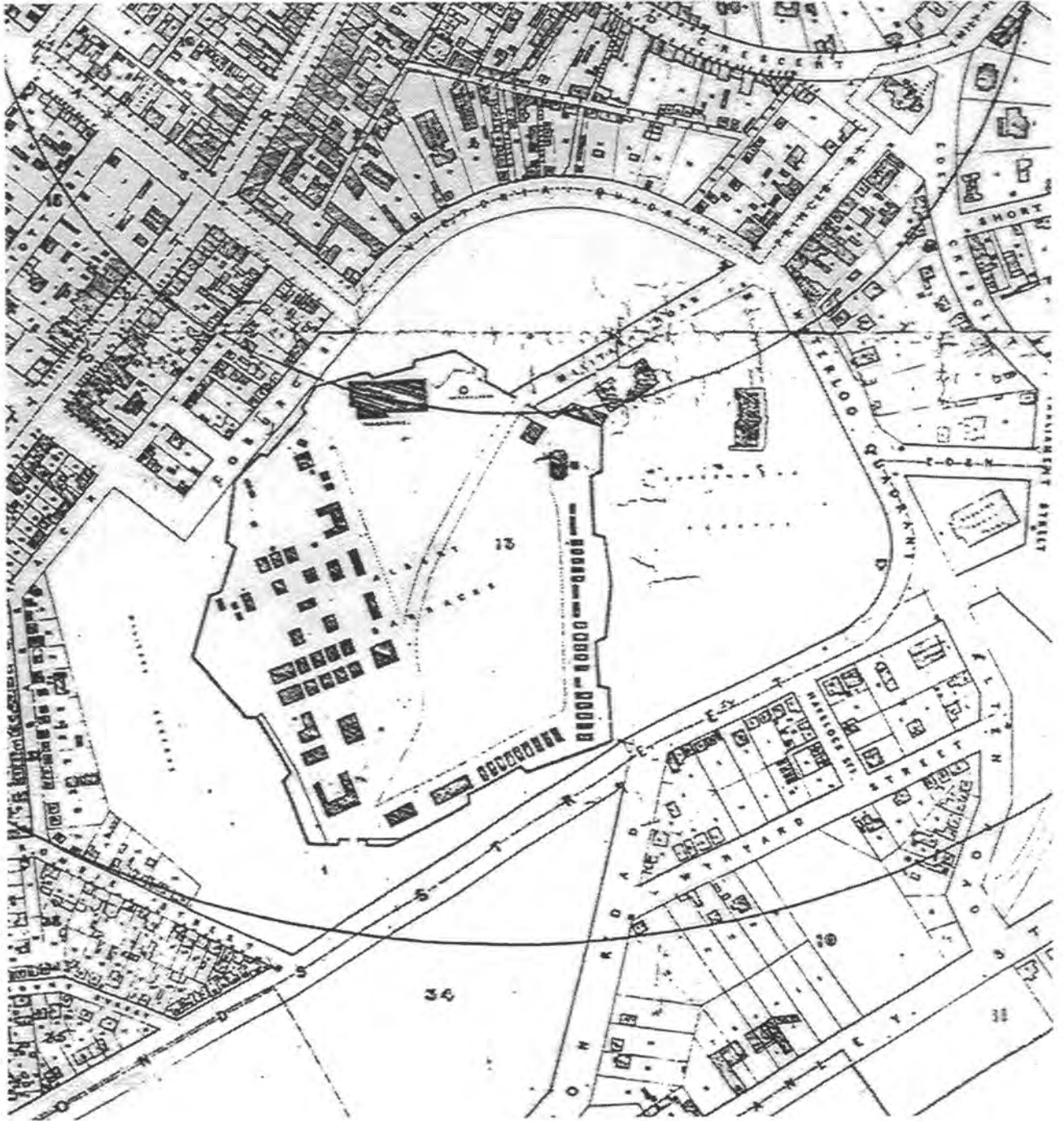


Figure 1. Plan of Albert Barracks (1866) (APL).

# Plan of ALBERT BARRACKS

Compiled from the field notes of a survey  
by  
G. Frissell  
September - 1871

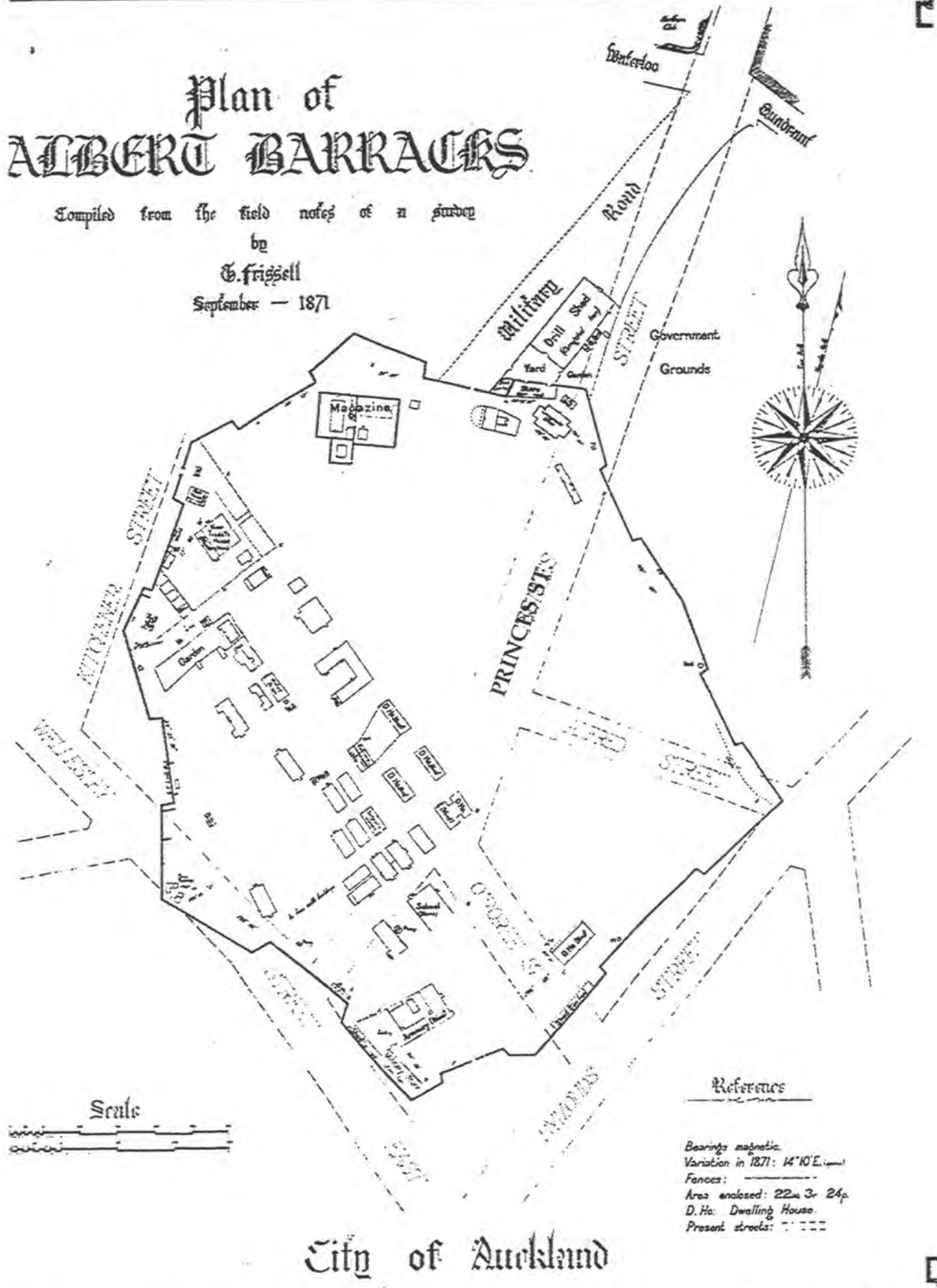


Figure 2. Albert Barracks (1871) Albert Park bounded by Princes, Wellesley and Kitchener Streets (Frissell' plan, after NZHPT April 1979)

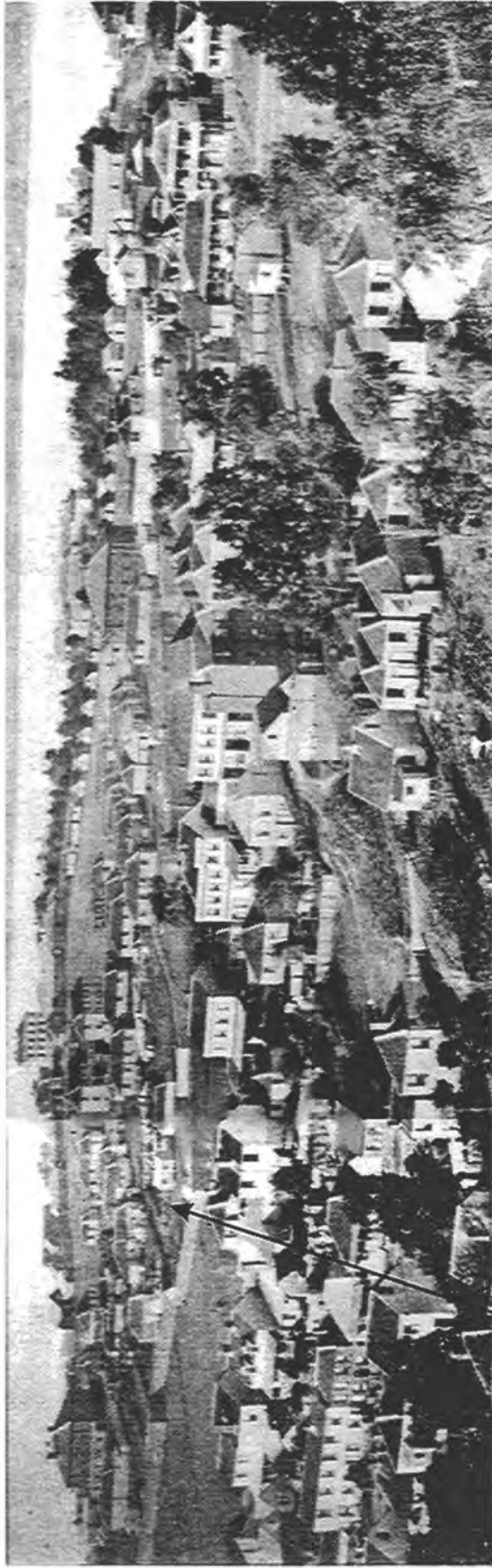


Figure 3 Albert Barracks 1860's (Department of Conservation)

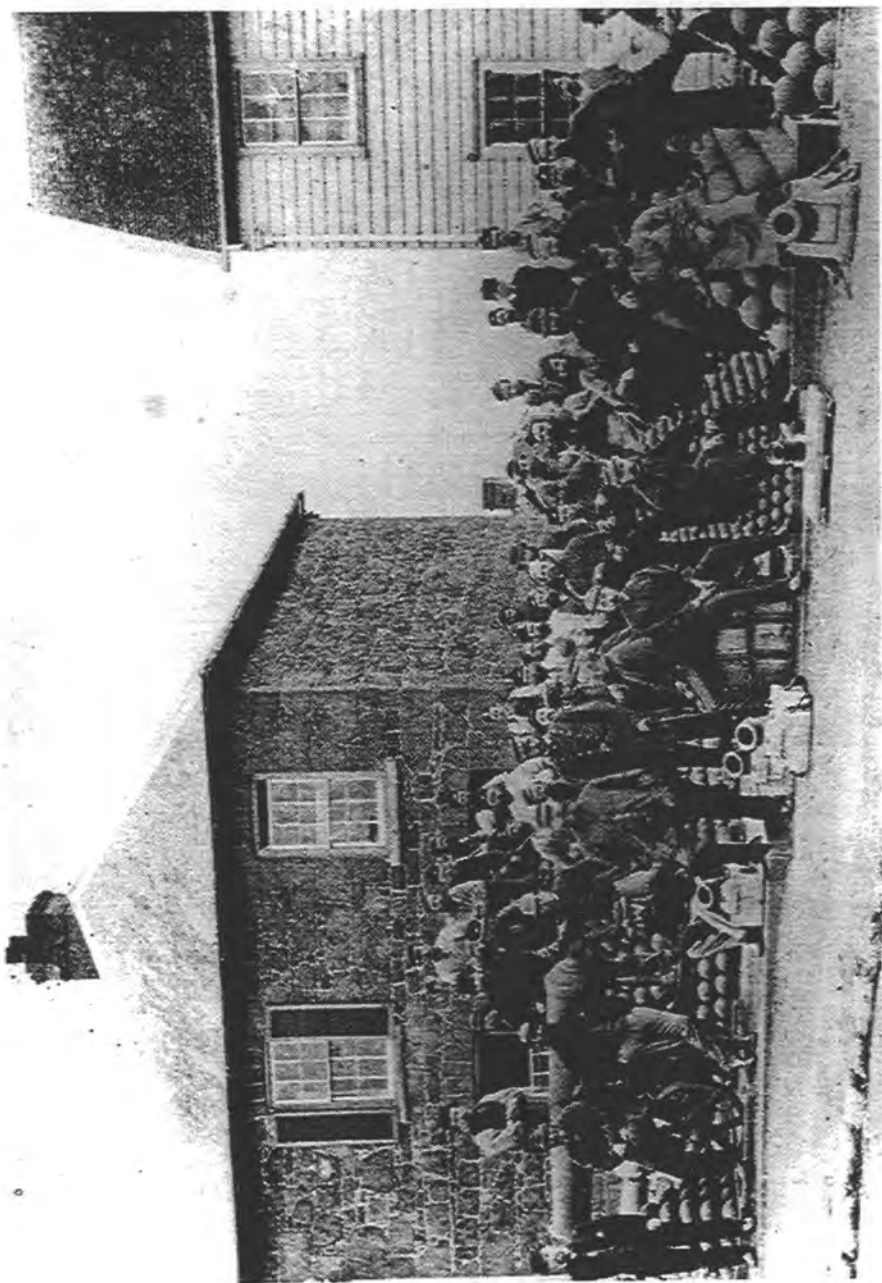


Figure 4. Albert Barracks: stone & timber buildings, men and munitions (APL 5699)



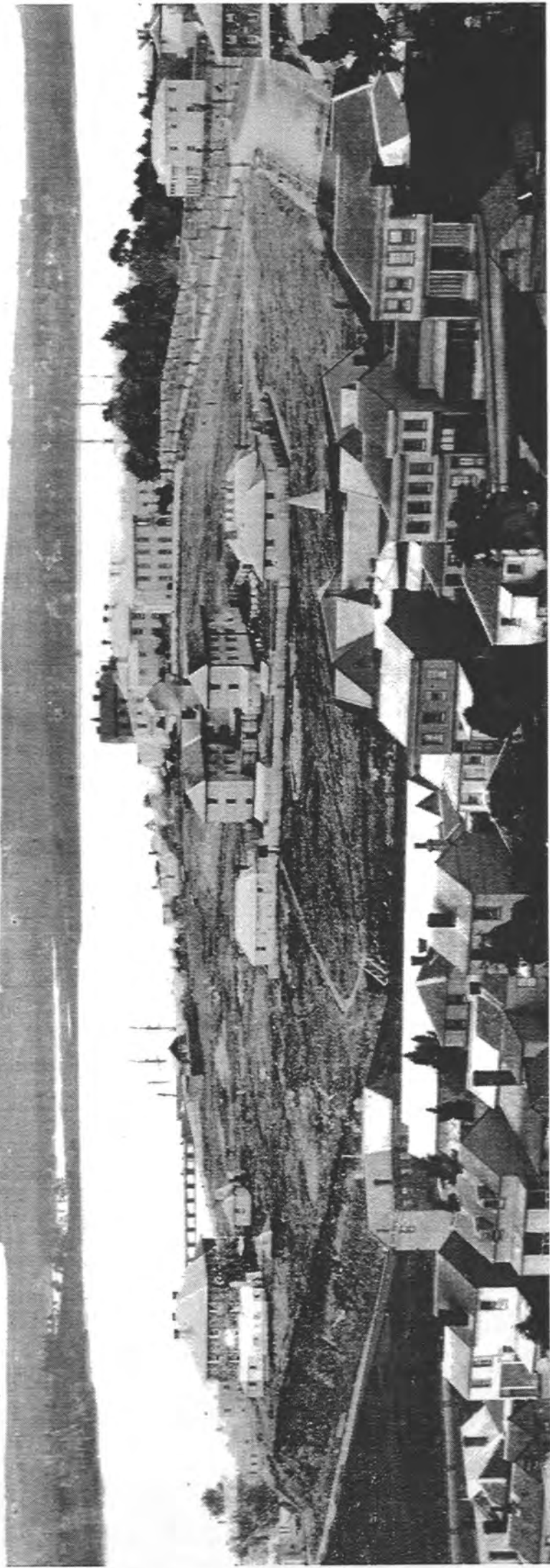


Figure 5. Albert Barracks after partial demolition (APL 1036)

Figure 6. WWII trenches

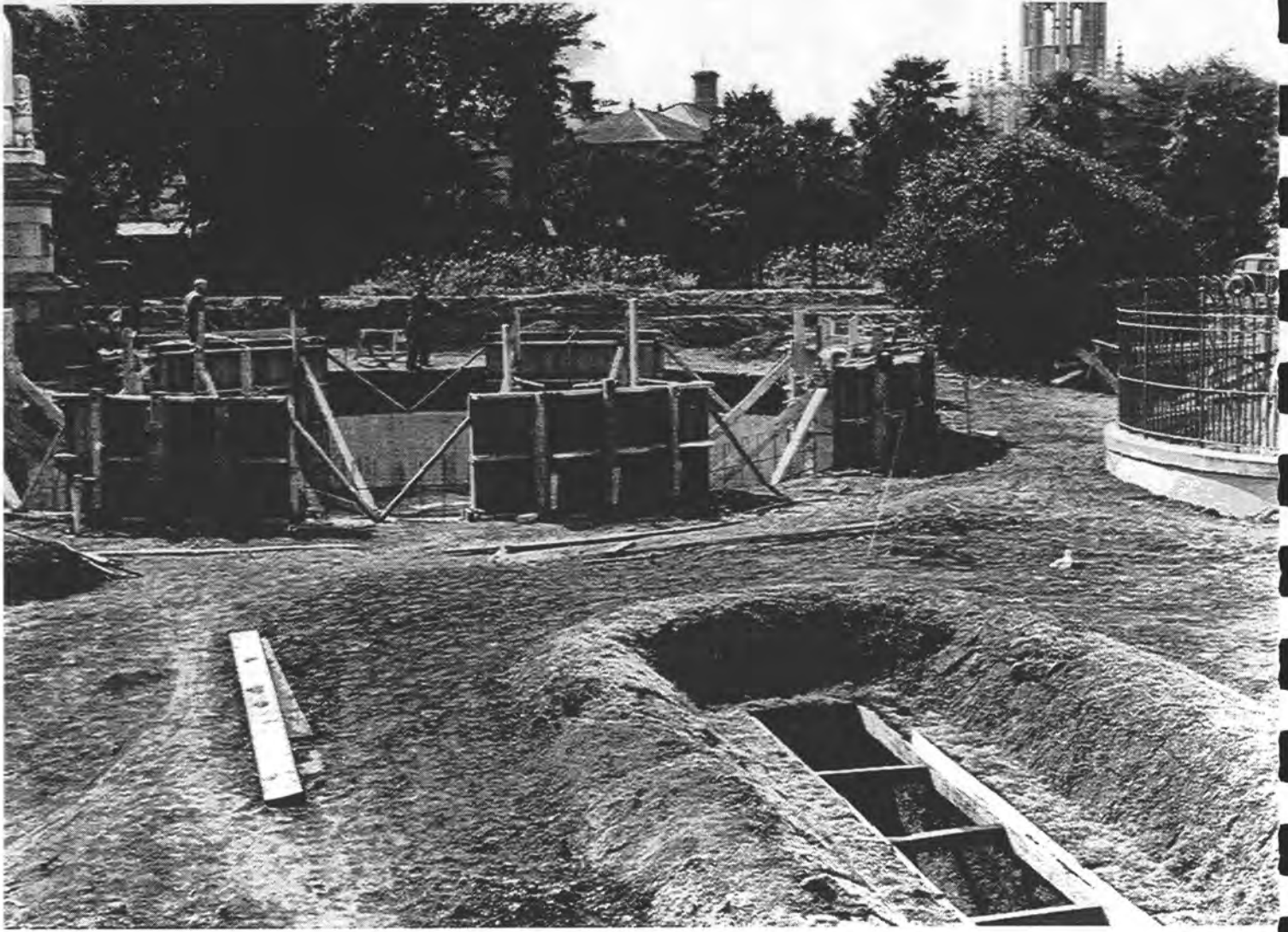




Figure 7 Archaeological Remains recovered from path & well

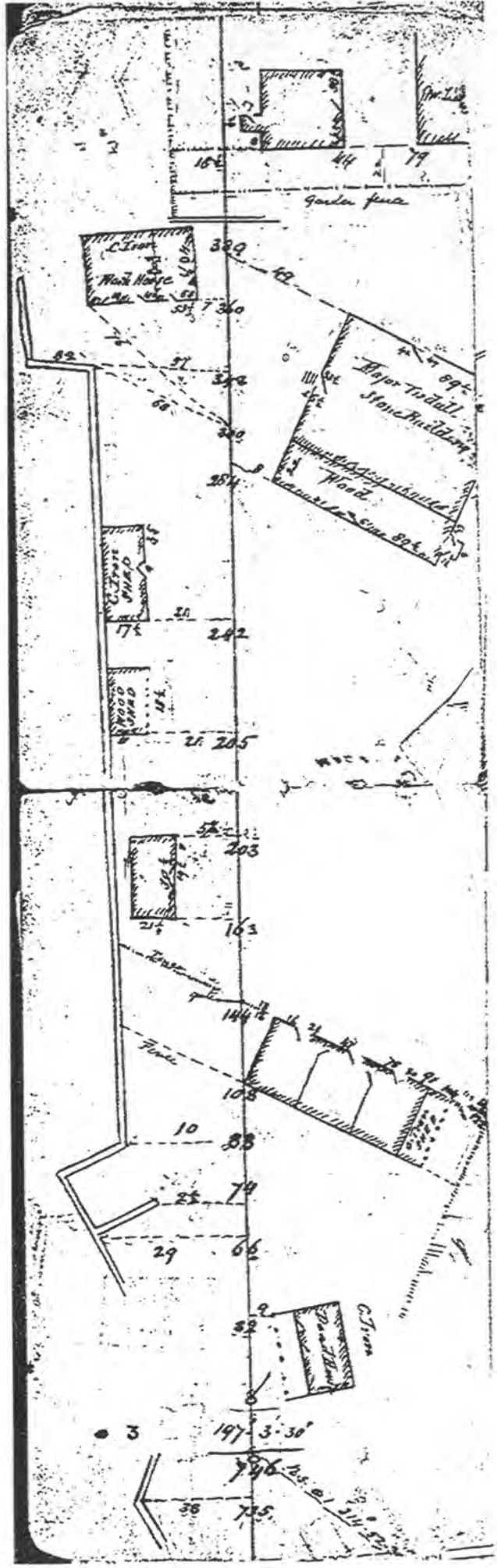
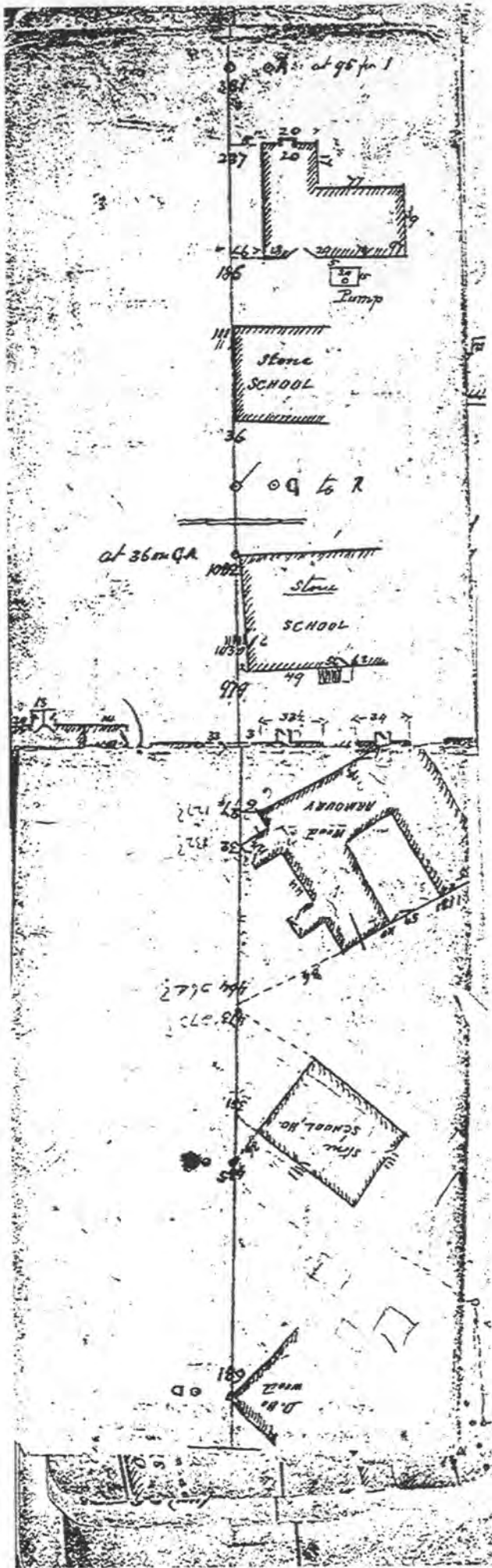


Figure 8. 1871 Frissell's survey book showing details of buildings in Albert Barracks