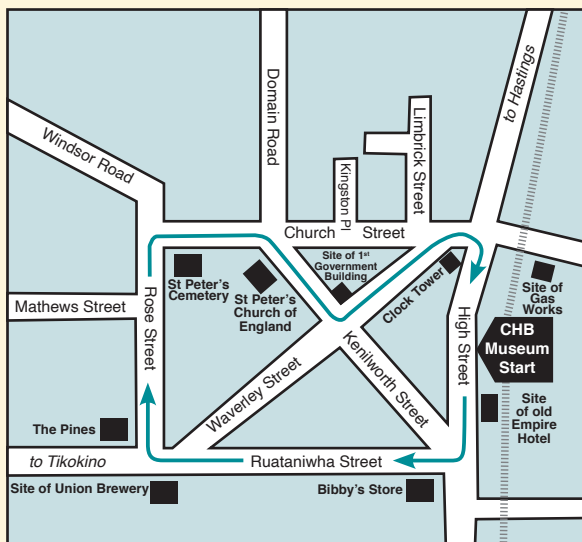


Waipawa Pavement Walk Central Hawke's Bay



The Pines, oldest house in Waipawa c.1858.

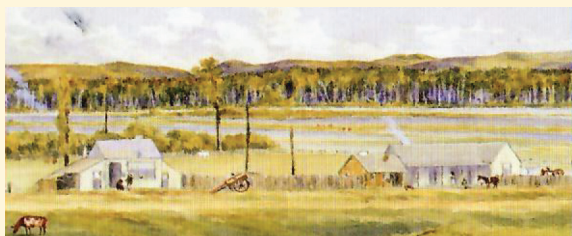
Hawke's Bay
the Real
Discover  New Zealand



Waipawa Pavement Walk

Begin this easy one hour walk at the Heritage Trail Board in the carpark beside the C.H.B. Museum.

Waipawa has the distinction of being one of New Zealand's earliest inland towns. Frederick Sedgewick Abbott, early settler and runholder, was instrumental in the town's formation. By 1854 Abbott had obtained a grazing licence for 9600 acres, with its southern boundary the Waipawa River. It was on this land that the township of Abbottsford was laid out, and on 20th February 1860 the first sections were sold by public auction. Early travellers referred to the place as Abbott's Ford, alluding to the place where all forded the river, (the actual ford being between the present railway and traffic bridges). This was the name F.S. Abbott chose for his run and later his township. Gradually, however, the name reverted back to its pretty Maori name – Waipawa, meaning smoky water.



F.S. Abbott's cottage at left. Edward Collins to right c.1857, on site of present carpark, High Street.





C.H.B. Museum. Until 1986 this building housed the Bank of New Zealand. The first bank was erected in 1874 and stood until the disastrous fire of 1886 destroyed half the eastern side of High Street. It was rebuilt the following year.

The museum is open 7 days a week, 10am - 4pm excluding public holidays.

Phone 06 857 7288, email chbmuseum@xtra.com
Empire Hotel (see plaque in front of Superliquor).



Empire Hotel

Bibby Store on corner of Ruataniwha Street Rose Garden.



The first Bibby Store built 1862.



Second Bibby Store built 1882



Second Bibby Store on site. Spire of Methodist Church. Moroney's Settlers Hotel (right), now the Commercial Hotel with top storey removed.

Bibby Building. Built by Edward Bibby c.1908, on Cnr of Kenilworth and Ruataniwha Streets.

51-55 Ruataniwha Street. The oldest commercial building in Waipawa c.1870. It has housed over the years Bakers Confectionery Shop, W.I. Limbrick's Furniture Emporium, S.A. Dailey's Butchery and finally Ashby Brothers, General Hardware Store and Ashby's Mitre10 and upstairs a skating rink and bandroom. Note the pitsawn timber on the western wall.

Methodist Church Built in 1872. The parsonage was erected behind the church in 1889. At this time the church bell was brought into service as the town's fire alarm. Methodist and Presbyterian churches combined in 1979. The old church was sold, then demolished in 1982.

14A Ruataniwha Street is thought to be the site of Waipawa's first store, opened by L.N. du Noyer & Co in 1857. T.H. Fitzgerald, the first superintendent of H.B., was a partner in this business.

1 and 3 Ruataniwha Street was the site of the Union Brewery founded by Leonard Whittington in 1888. On his death in 1891 his son-in-law A.E. Jull, took over the running of the brewery, forming a partnership with Dr. Alexander Todd. Beer was brewed on site until 1921. Part of the original cellar is still under No. 3.



Union Brewery c.1898

2 Rose Street 'The Pines' is the oldest house in Waipawa, see cover photo and site plaque on grass verge. Look to the skyline for the notable trees planted by Dr Alex Todd.

5 Rose Street is the home built for A.E. Jull in 1902. The architect was C.T. Natusch.

11 Rose Street is the home built for James and Mary Bibby in 1892 and still in the family.

15 Rose Street was the home of Professor T.F. Moore, photographer, chemist and dentist, who ran his business from 'The Medical Hall', High Street (1870-1902).

St Peter's Cemetery. This land was donated by F.S. Abbott in 1860. William Howells was the first person buried here in 1863. The large protected Oak tree was self sown around 1877. The cairn was unveiled in 1989.

St Peter's Anglican Church is sited on four acres, also gifted by F.S. Abbott in 1860. The first church, built from white pine milled from 'The Bush' was consecrated in 1862. A new, larger church was built by E. Bibby in 1877. In 1904 Lissie Rathbone gave the tower and spire in memory of her husband William. Enlargement and renovations of 1934 were funded by the Lissie Rathbone Trust and included the stained glass window. The lych-gate was built by Arthur Boyd-Turner during the 1930s. The Sunday School Hall was opened in 1890 and enlarged in the 1920s. In 2004 after a severe storm, the original hall was damaged, then sold to a gallery in Havelock North. What you see now is the extended 1920s extension.

St John's Co-Operating Parish built as Presbyterian Church in 1884. In 1952 the church was moved to the rear of its section and additional rooms added. It was modernised in 1982.



At this point you can walk along Kenilworth Street to the Museum passing on the way –

CHB Municipal Theatre (Town Hall) was originally built as the Oddfellows Hall, then purchased by newly formed Borough Council in 1909.

Mr W. Robertshawe submitted the successful tender to add to the hall a Public Library, Borough Council Offices and Chamber. The 'new' Municipal Theatre opened in 1910. Restoration took place in 1984 partially restoring it to its former glory. Complete restoration was completed in 2010-11. Now a popular venue for gatherings and events.

Salvation Army Barracks were built opposite in 1898. By the 1930s the building was used by the Waipawa Country Club and later turned into flats. In 1989 it was moved to 35 Abbotsford Road, where it is now a private residence. To continue with original walk turn north into Waverley Street.

First Waipawa Government School stood on this corner; it was opened in 1865 with 18 pupils on land donated by F.S. Abbott. The original Secondary Department is now a private house. The Woodwork building at the rear of this site is home to the local Kindergarten.



Waipawa Government School c.1907, cnr Kenilworth and Waverley Streets.

St Patricks Church is the third church on site. The first was built 1871, rebuilt 1890, the completely destroyed by fire 1920. Present church rebuilt 1921.

Nelly Jull Park was presented to the people of Waipawa in 1935 by A.E. Jull in memory of his wife. In 2010 a new playground was erected to celebrate Waipawa's 150 years.

Memorial Clock Tower was unveiled in July 1922 by Lord Jellicoe in memory of the men who lost their lives in W.W.I. The lectern and brass plaque were erected in 1954 in memory of the district's men killed in W.W.II.

The entire eastern side of High Street from the Museum northwards was demolished in 1986. The Centrecourt Mall opened at this time.

William Rathbone's Store was opened in 1860 on the site opposite the Museum car park. In 1904 Williams and Kettle bought the business and traded in the town until 1987. The town's only supermarket traded here until fire partially destroyed the building in 2021.



Rathbone's Store

Post Telegraph Office was built in 1869 and situated where the Council Information Board stands. The Post Office was rebuilt in 1887 following the big fire and operated until 1955 when a new brick building was opened next to Nelly Jull Park. This closed in 1990.

In the council foyer is a very large oil painting of early Waipawa. The artist was the brother of Dr C.R. English.

Books for future reference:

History of Hawke's Bay, J.G. Wilson

Abbotsford, Margaret Gray

Waipukurau, History of a Country Town, Patrick Parsons

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HB Regional Council

CHB District Council

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Hastings District Heritage Trails Committee



Visitor Information Centre



Historic places registered under Historic Places Act 1993