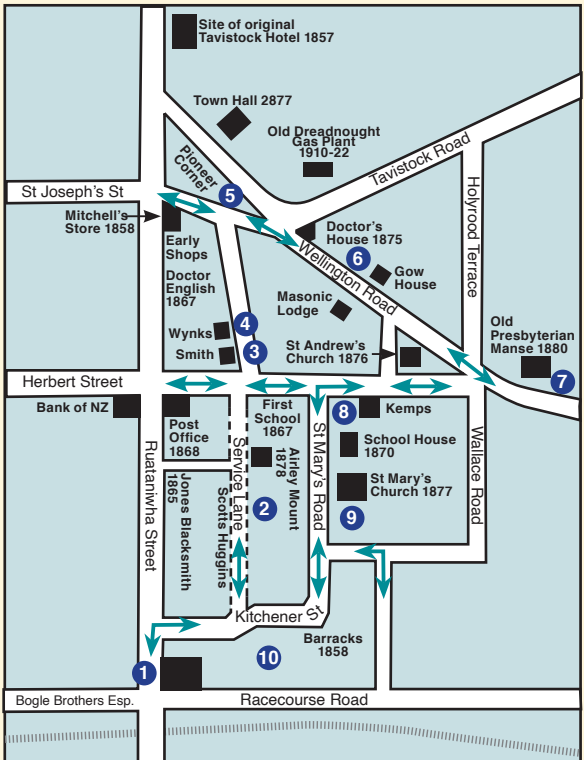


Waipukurau Pavement Walk Central Hawke's Bay



Schoolmaster's house, built 1870.

Hawke's Bay
the Real
Discover  New Zealand



Waipukurau Walk

The walk starts and finishes at the Tavistock Hotel and takes about an hour.

Opposite is parking, public toilets and the CHB Visitor Information Centre in part of the Knowledge and Learning Centre across the road from the railway station (phone 06-858-6488).

1. Tavistock Hotel

This was built by Henry Russell as a 'bush licensed' Accommodation House during 1856-57. From 1876 the licence then extended to the refreshment rooms at



Henry R. Russell, founder of Waipukurau and his wife Susanna (nee Herbert)

the Railway Station where trains stopped for twenty minutes.

During a 1906 earthquake, liquid refreshments in a hamper destined for the train spilt onto the sandwiches.

The spoiled food was thrown to the hens in a nearby yard. Later there was much consternation when the hens were found to be in an advanced state of intoxication!





*Tavistock Hotel 1900 on its first site at Pioneer Corner.
See Number 5 on map.*

The hotel's large stables were destroyed by fire in 1877. In 1915 most of the original building was moved to its present site.

2. Airlie Mount

The only house at the lower level along the present service lane is an enlarged original cottage. Cottages were provided for assisted immigrants by H.R. Russell until families were able to build their own homes.

Airlie Mount was built by Coles Bros of Onga Onga during 1879-80, for the Alexander Jones family who were bought from Scotland as blacksmiths and wheelwrights. The family set up a foundry in the town making agricultural equipment. Having arrived in Napier by sea, a wagon was loaded for the trip down to Waipukurau. When one of the wheels sank into a hole at the Tukituki river ford, Mrs. Jones remarked "I didn't come 13,000 miles to be drowned in a burn!"

The ford is a short distance by car/cycle along Mt. Herbert Road opposite Ford Road on the far river bank. The original Mt. Herbert homestead was almost at the end of the road, on the right hand side. The present house is the third on the site. The earliest of the oaks in the avenue were planted in the 1850s with some later, about 1910.

Now back to the village green information site sign showing early town photos.

3. Wattle House

Looking up Porangahau Road the large house on the corner of Bedford Terrace, was the former residence of the Hon W. Cowper Smith. He came out from London as part of the militia before becoming an M.P. He was senior whip in the Ballance government (1890-92). Sir George Grey was a constant visitor at Wattle House.

4. Dr. English

Continuing along Bedford Terrace the next house was lived in by James Wynks, Henry Russell's fencer. He planted pine trees cultivated from seed by H.J. Russell, some of which can still be seen in Hunter Park.



Originally this house was the home of Waipukurau's first resident doctor, Charles Robert English M.D. MRCS.

Dr. English, the Government Medical Officer, first took up residence at Avison's Accommodation House in 1857. He also held the position of Medical Officer for the Regiments stationed at the Barracks.

He was known for his sense of humour. Mt. Herbert's gardener died; at the inquest the coroner's verdict was "drowned by alcohol". "Alcohol be damned", said Dr. English. "Didn't we take him out of the river, I'd say he drowned by water!"

The manner of his own death at Waipawa in 1875 is recorded in 'Abbotsford' by Margaret Gray.



Pre 1880s view looking south along Wellington Road.

5. Pioneer Corner

Walking along Bedford Terrace the trail leads to where the original tracks from the north, south and west crossed at Pioneer Corner and the first site of the Tavistock Hotel. The founding of the town is related on the historic site sign.

This shows the doctor's residence on the corner, built for Dr. James Reid, appointed in 1878 as the first Hospital doctor. St. Andrew's Church is at the top of the road. Pioneer Cottage, seen at the extreme right in its original setting. It has since been moved to Onga Onga and now forms part of their Museum Complex (see Highway 50 Heritage Trail).



Pioneer Cottage at its present location.



Public Hospital c. 1890 on land given by H.J. Russell and established in 1878.

6. Gow House

Number 5 Wellington Road. Mr. & Mrs. P. Gow, proprietors of the Tavistock Hotel (1875-1900), retired to this house. Mr. Gow died in 1911, Mrs. Gow lived on until 1936. Mrs. Putman, the first matron at the hospital, owned the Hartley House opposite.

Until 1909 patients had travelled to Sydney for radium treatment. In August that year it was announced that through the generosity of the Hon. W. Cowper Smith, the hospital would be able to accept the offer made to Dr. S.C. Godfrey from a Melbourne firm, to purchase 10 milligrams of radium at a cost of £230. Later someone inadvertently sluiced a needle of radium down a hospital drain, never to be seen again!

7. The Presbyterian Manse

The Manse stands at 37 Porangahau Road, built in 1880 for £600 on land donated by Henry Russell. Its construction is of native timber and carries a Historic Places Trust classification. It was sold in 1926 because of deterioration! Today 129 years on, it is a private residence. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1865.



The Manse c. 1890.



8. School House

Turning into St Mary's Road the original school was erected in 1867. It served as a community centre and public library. It was replaced by a large wooden school of 12 classrooms. This was destroyed by fire in 1922. Its brick replacement, bearing the motto "I will yet go forward" withstood the 1931 earthquake.

Accompanying the original school was the master's house built in 1870. (Present day photo on the cover). It was moved across the road in 1915-16.

It remains the oldest occupied private house in Waipukurau.

9. St. Mary's Anglican Church

A vicar resided in the Waipukurau/Waipawa area from as early as 1859. The first services were conducted at venues such as the Tavistock Hotel, the Military Stockade and the blacksmiths premises. The first burial took place in 1874. When Rev. J.C. Eccles was appointed vicar of Waipawa/Waipukurau Parish, he regretted the fact he had to live 11 months in a Waipukurau boarding house until a vicarage was made ready.

Henry Russell appeared reluctant to allocate land for a church, but eventually in 1877 one was built and consecrated.

It became too small to meet the parish needs by the end of the 1920s and so it was replaced by the present one on the same site and consecrated in 1930. The bricks for its construction were made in Waipawa.



St Mary's Church

10. Pukekaihou Pā – Hunter Memorial Park

During the 1600s, Pukekaihou was a thriving pā (settlement). It was the main pā for the hāpu (kin groups) of this area. They would go out and gather food from surrounding waterways and forests, then move back up the hill, behind the fortifications, during times of danger.

The Pa was abandoned in the 1820s and its earthworks were destroyed when the military stockade was erected in the early 1860s. On the site of the Pa is located a whare korero containing two large illustrated re-creations that show what Pukekaihou Pā and the wider Waipukurau-Takapau landscape might have looked like during the times of the tipuna (ancestors).

The walk now turns down Kitchener Street past the library where further historic photographs are on permanent display.

Ngā Ara Tipuna Website: <http://ngaaratipuna.nz>

Books for future reference:

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

Abbotsford, Margaret Gray

Waipukurau, History of a Country Town, Patrick Parsons

Acknowledgements:

HB Regional Council

CHB District Council

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CHB VIC and help from many people

Hastings District Heritage Trails Committee

Other CHB Heritage Trails:

- Waipawa Pavement Walk
- Coastal Trail
- State Highway 50 Trail
- Highway 2 Trail



Visitor Information Centre



Historic places registered under Historic Places Act 1993