

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH INTERNAL REPORT NO. 65

**BLUESTONE AND BUREAUCRACY:
A project on the presentation of an
archaeological site:
Albert Barracks R11/833.**

by

Jan Coates

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ABSTRACT

Albert Barracks was Auckland's largest and longest standing early defensive installation. Surrounded by a massive stone perimeter wall, it was highly visible and very impressive.

In 1988, a public presentation programme was designed by the Auckland City Council and the Department of Conservation, to locate and appropriately mark a section of the barracks wall, the main entrance and part of the guardhouse.

This report describes the historical and archaeological investigation that has been undertaken to complete the first stage of the project. A review of the history of the construction and demolition of the barracks was followed by research into the origins and development of Albert Park. The position of the guardhouse was estimated through use of early plans and confirmed by a test excavation.

A further stage of the programme will be to locate the northern wall and entrance gates. Final decisions are still to be made regarding the proportion of features to be presented, and the best method to accomplish this.

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BLUESTONE AND BUREAUCRACY

Introduction

When, in 1988 the first stage of an archaeological presentation project was undertaken in Albert Park, Auckland, few people would have realised that the rationale behind its inception stretched back years into the past, to two small seemingly insignificant articles in the NZ Herald.

"At last the fiat has gone forth, and the old and well remembered Barracks wall is to be ruthlessly destroyed -the monument to the 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 March 1873.

This brief excerpt alerted its readers to the fact that the demolition of the wall around Albert Barracks, a prominent visual landmark and symbol of security to the inhabitants of early Auckland for 23 years, was about to begin. A further article on 22 March 1873 declared -

"The old wall is being demolished with such rapidity that it is believed that a month hence nothing of it will be left standing but the gate pillars, which are to be held sacred from the pick and crowbar of the labourer, and preserved as relics of the past."

NZ Herald 22 March 1873.

While this evidence leaves little room for doubt concerning the destruction of the Barrack wall, the most intriguing aspect is to be found in the declared intention to preserve the Northern gate pillars as a monument to the past. This intention may well represent one of the earliest attempts in Auckland to preserve a portion of its early colonial history. Sadly, for reasons best known only to the authorities the time, whether with intent or in error, the North gate suffered the same fate as the majority of the wall -demolition and removal of the stone to be used in other works in the Auckland district.

Subsequent efforts at presentation of the Albert Barracks have been minimal. A length of the original Barracks wall has been preserved within the University complex and the Auckland City Council has built for presentation a replica of one of the wells. The latter project was supported by the Auckland Regional Committee of the NZ Historic Places Trust under the chairmanship of Mr Robert Brown. The Regional Committee supplied the finance for an excavation of the well prior to reconstruction.

The aim of the current preservation programme is to appropriately mark a section of the northern Barracks wall, the North gate and possibly part of the former Guardhouse. The programme designed in conjunction with the Regional Archaeology Unit, Department of Conservation, will hopefully address the original intentions of 1873, and provide Auckland with a permanent reminder of an important segment of its early history.

THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION OF ALBERT BARRACKS

With the war proceeding in 1845 against Heke in the northern part of New Zealand, feelings of apprehension spread amongst the inhabitants of Auckland. The possibility of attack on the town, almost entirely denuded of the military forces which had been stationed at Fort Britomart, was uppermost in the minds of the settlers (Platt 1971: 122-127).

It is true that some protection was afforded by troops of the militia who had been called out for active service and were stationed at Fort Britomart, a commanding promontory above the shores of the Waitemata Harbour. However, these troops "were imperfectly drilled, and their officers, though zealous and spirited, were,

with one or two exceptions, untrained and inexperienced." (Lennard n.d.). In addition Governor FitzRoy authorised construction of a further redoubt on the ridge commanding the western approaches to the town. This redoubt, Fort Ligar, was never completed (Smith 1989).

On 18 November 1845 George Grey arrived in Auckland to replace FitzRoy as Governor and Commander in Chief of the Imperial Forces in New Zealand (Wards 1968: 168). A man of action, Grey determined to wipe out the last pocket of resistance in the North by attacking Kawiti's pa at Ruapekapeka. The pa fell to the British troops in January and the war in the North was over.

With the successful conclusion to the hostilities, but mindful of the bitterness remaining, Governor Grey turned his attention to the defences of Auckland. Fort Britomart had long been inadequate to house the numbers of Imperial Forces stationed there, and in the event of an attack which would require accommodation for the population of Auckland, a more substantial defence was needed. As a consequence, the Governor ordered a new large wooden Barrack to be erected on the volcanic hill known to the Maori as Rangipuke or Hill of the Sky (Lennard n.d.). The site chosen for the Barracks can be seen on a painting by Edward Ashworth in 1843, - a slightly sloping area to the left of scattered buildings forming part of the township of Auckland (Plate 1).

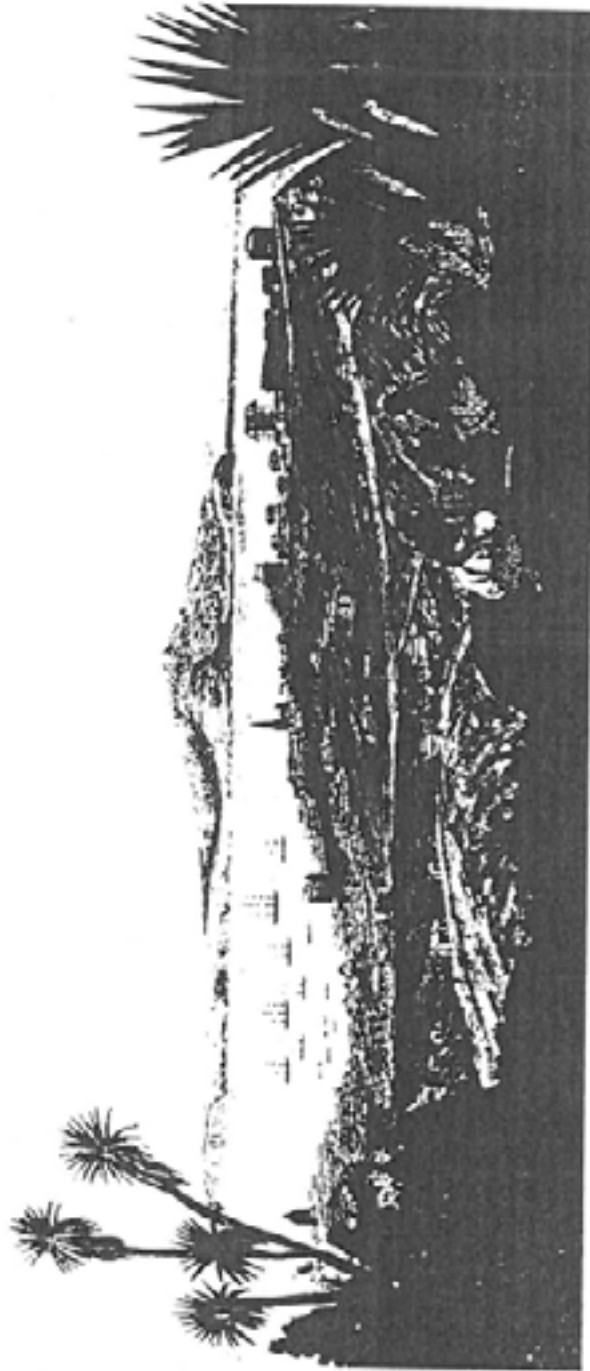
To assist with the design and construction of the Barracks a company of sappers and miners was brought out from England. The date when the first building was completed is unknown, but a painting by an unknown artist attributed to the late 1840s shows a number of buildings and the southern perimeter wall in place (Plate 2). A J. Bunney painting of 1858 indicates that further Barracks buildings have been added with gardens inside the perimeter wall (Plate 3). The entire area of 23

PLATE 1. Auckland from the Government Domain (c. 1843).



(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Public Library)

PLATE 2. Auckland late 1840's - early 1850's.
(Albert Barrecks right centre)



(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Public Library.)

acres, 3 roods, 24 perches, was enclosed by a massive 12 ft high volcanic bluestone wall, stepped to take into account the contours of the hill (Plate 4).

Flanking bastions protected two gates on the north and south sides, with irregular angles at intervals along the rest of the wall to give flank fire from loopholes. A firing step (banquette) ran along the inside of the parapet allowing the troops to stand and fire through the loopholes.

Construction of the wall using Maori labour under the supervision of George Graham (Royal Engineers), began in late 1846 or early 1847.

"A portion of the scoria wall, now erecting around the extensive grounds at Albert Barracks is being put up solely by natives, under the superintendance of Mr. G. Graham, R.E., assisted by an interpreter. The stones have been prepared by native hands, and those which form the quoins are so well hammered and faced, that it would be difficult to point out any marked difference between them and the work performed by the Europeans."

New Zealander April 1847.

Essentially experimental in nature, the use of native labour aroused comments of praise. In the same issue of the New Zealander a letter to the Editor remarks:

"The experiment first proposed, as I have been informed, by Mr George Graham, of employing twenty Natives for preparing the foundation and the stone for the wall succeeded so well, that their number has been increased to upwards of seventy men. Of these, forty are employed at the Quarry, at Mount Eden, who are proving themselves excellent quarrymen. Of those at the Barracks, some are sinking wells, some dressing stone, and others building the wall. Many of them can dress quoins as most Europeans."

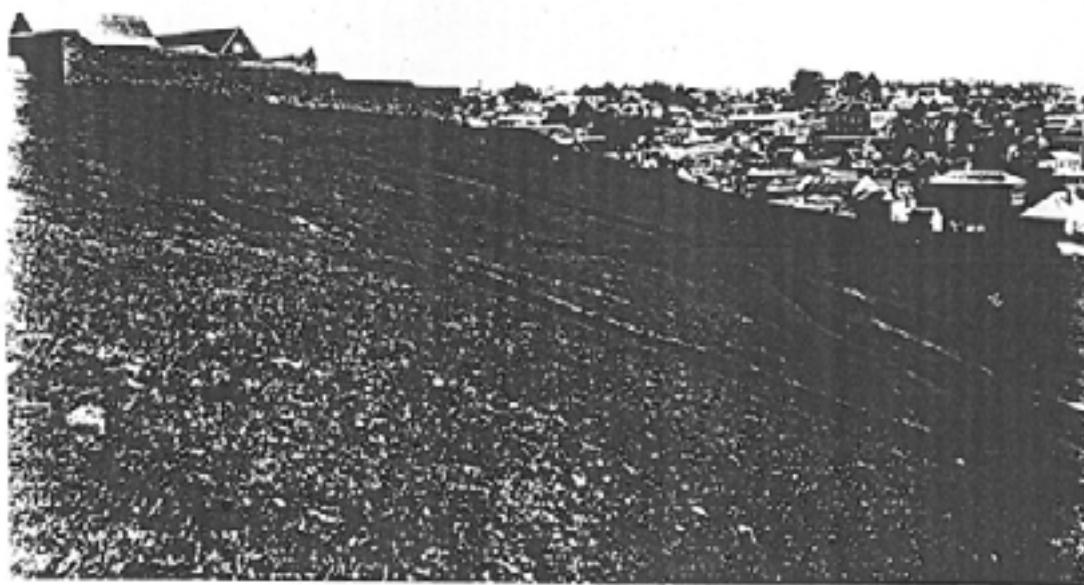
New Zealander 3 April 1847.

PLATE 3. Auckland from Hobson Street south.
(Albert Barraks centre)



(Reproduced by permission of the N.Z. Herald)

PLATE 4. Albert Barracks 1860's, showing wall and buildings.



(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Institute and Museum.)

A further article in the *New Zealander* in June 1847, continues to reflect both the concern and surprise that accompanied the employment of native labour. On the one hand not quite forgetting the fear of renewed conflict and on the other acknowledging with surprise the native fortitude and skill on the current Barracks project.

"Amidst the sounds of war from the South, we turn with no little pleasure to witness the progress which the Native employed on the Ordnance Works are making in the arts of civilization. New-Zealanders fresh from the country, appear to acquire a knowledge of all details of masonry in a few weeks, without, as at home, having to undergo a lengthened 'service vile' in carrying bricks and making mortar. So well pleased are the directors of the works, that, we understand, it is their intention in future to complete the stone-work of the Boundary Wall at Albert Barracks with Native masons only, under their own superintendance."

New Zealander 9 June 1847.

While there is no documented evidence to suggest the final completion date of the wall, it was apparently a lengthy process. Tenders in December 1848 were called for the further cartage of stone from the quarry at Mt Eden to "such parts of the Boundary Wall at Albert Barracks, as may from time to time be pointed out" (*New Zealander* 20 December 1848). When Charles Heaphy carried out his survey of the land on which the Barracks stood and the adjacent Military Reserves in 1851, the wall is shown in a completed form (Fig. 1).

A notice of tender in the *New Zealander* in 1852 provides evidence that the last finishing touches to the perimeter wall had not been quite completed.

"Tenders will be received at this Office until noon of Thursday, the 16th inst. from persons willing to contract for the performance of the following work for the Ordnance Department:-



FIG. 1. Survey of Barracks Wall and adjacent land - Heaphy 1851.

Making four Sentry Boxes, including all materials. Making Entrance Gates and Doors to Albert Barracks, labour only, including hanging.

Payment to be made by an Ordnance Draft on the Commissariat Chest.”

New Zealander 11 September 1852.

Along with the construction of the Barracks wall, work was progressing with the various Barracks buildings. Tenders called for in June required the erection of Artillery Barracks, lining of eight buildings, the supply of 1000 joists, 80,000 feet of boarding, 300 bushels of oyster shell lime and 300 bushels of sand (New Zealander June 1848).

This indication of substantial construction work is supported by the knowledge that many improvements to the Barracks were added by General Dean-Pitt officer commanding the forces from 851 (Lennard n.d.). Such improvements included accommodation in a wooden barrack for at least 900 rank and file, a stone building known as the Grenadier Barrack to house 100, Commissariat offices and treasury, a military hospital and a Sergeants Mess (Swainson 1853; Lennard 1966). There was also an Armoury and a large stone magazine for storing ammunition surrounded a stone wall. In February 1849 tenders were called for the erection of a Military Reading Room (New Zealander 1849).

Few maps exist which show the layout of the various buildings within the Barracks. The earliest is the 1866 Vercoe and Harding map which illustrates that a number of buildings were in place (Fig. 2). On this plan only one building is identified - the magazine. The guardhouse was located inside the main Northern Gate. Of particular interest are the small buildings arranged inside the north-east and south-east sections of the perimeter wall. These are not shown on later plans.



FIG. 2. Plan of Auckland - Vercoe and Harding 1866.

Photographs of the Barracks in its completed form are difficult to find. Several shots are available within the Barracks themselves, but these generally are set pieces focusing on groups of soldiers and military hardware, with buildings forming part of the background (Plate 5). Fortunately library archives contain a series of fine panoramic views taken from the location of Partington's Mill. A search of these revealed a photograph taken 1871 (start of Barracks dismantling) which compliments and confirms the layout depicted on the 1866 Vercoe and Harding map (Plate 6). When photographic enlargements of the Barracks were obtained details of the various buildings were clear (Plates 7 and 8). The open north gate can be seen quite clearly and to the right is the main guardhouse. This small wooden building has a chimney and verandah at the front. As far as I am aware no other photograph of the Guardhouse exists.

A rather grainy damaged negative of the main North gate (Plate 9) is the sole evidence of this impressive feature. The height of the wall and the gate pillars are an impressive testament to the construction methods.

According to Lennard (n.d.) a large portion of the central parade ground was gravelled, probably with crushed scoria from the Mt Eden Quarry, with the remaining areas neatly grassed.

From early 1847 it was obvious that activities in the Barracks were not confined to an endless round of military drills and parades, though these are often depicted in sketches and paintings (Plate 10). Sporting events, notably cricket, and more genteel social pursuits such as Balls and Levees, were also to the fore.

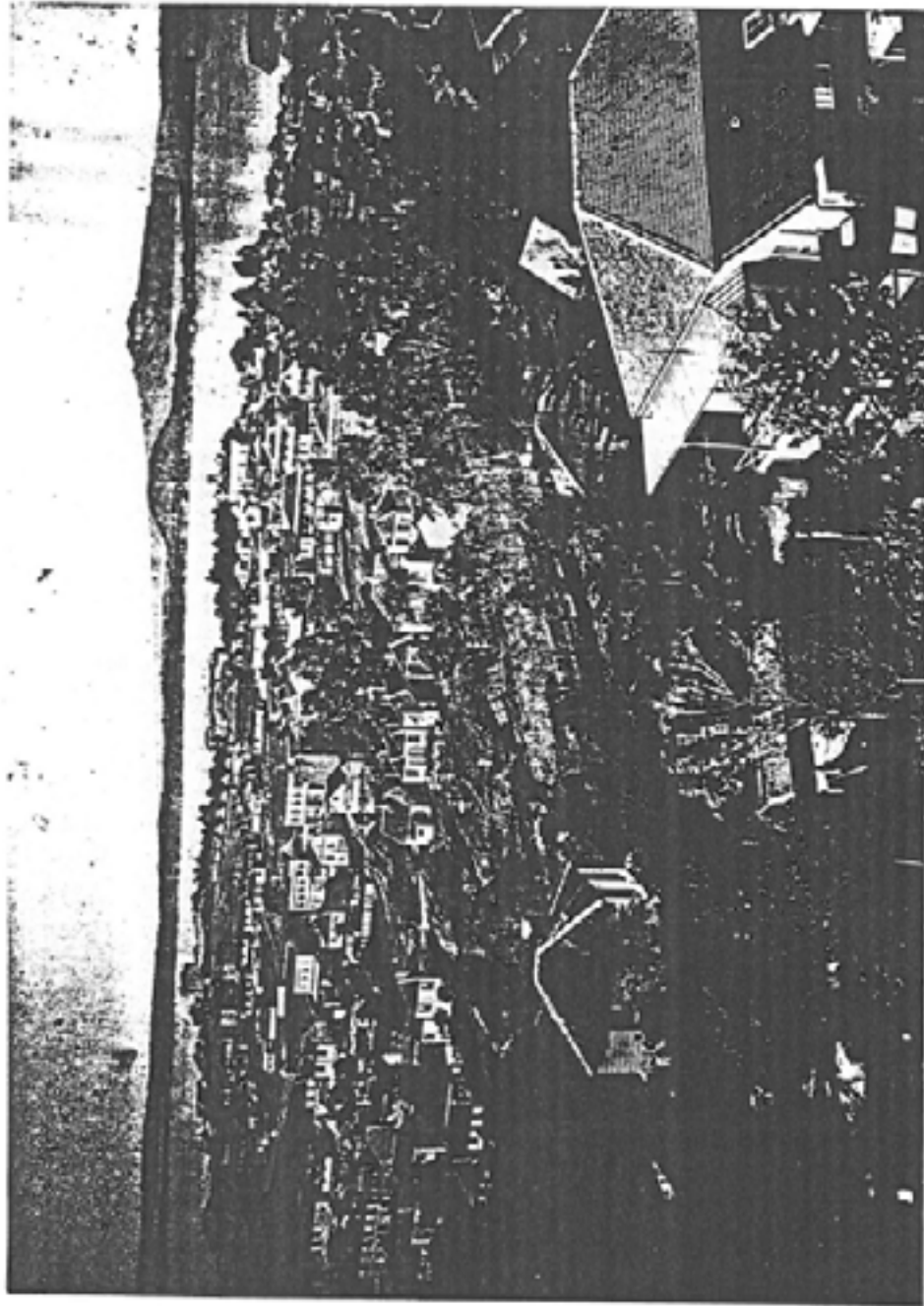
An advertisement in the *New Zealander* in 1847 announced the organisation of a Garrison Sports.

PLATE 5. Inside Albert Barracks 1860's.



(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Institute and Museum)

PLATE 6. Albert Barracks 1870.
(left centre background)



(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Public Library.)

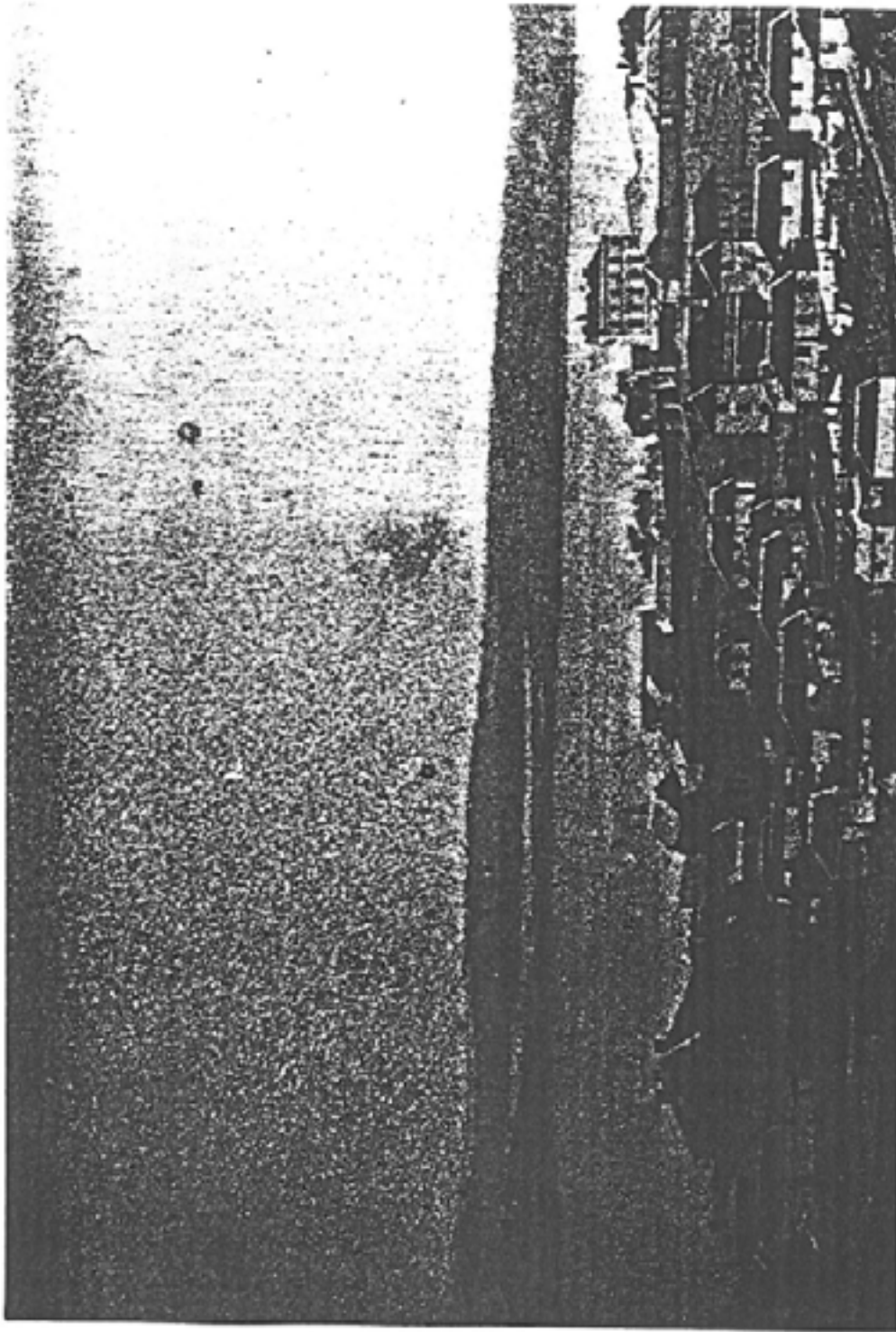
PLATE 7. Albert Barracks 1870.



(Sectional enlargement from AFL Neg. 1036, Auckland Public Library)

(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Public Library.)

PLATE B. Albert Barracks 1870 - Guardhouse right centre.



(Sectional enlargement from APL Neg. 1036, Auckland Public Library)

PLATE 9. Albert Barracks 1850's - the entrance gates.

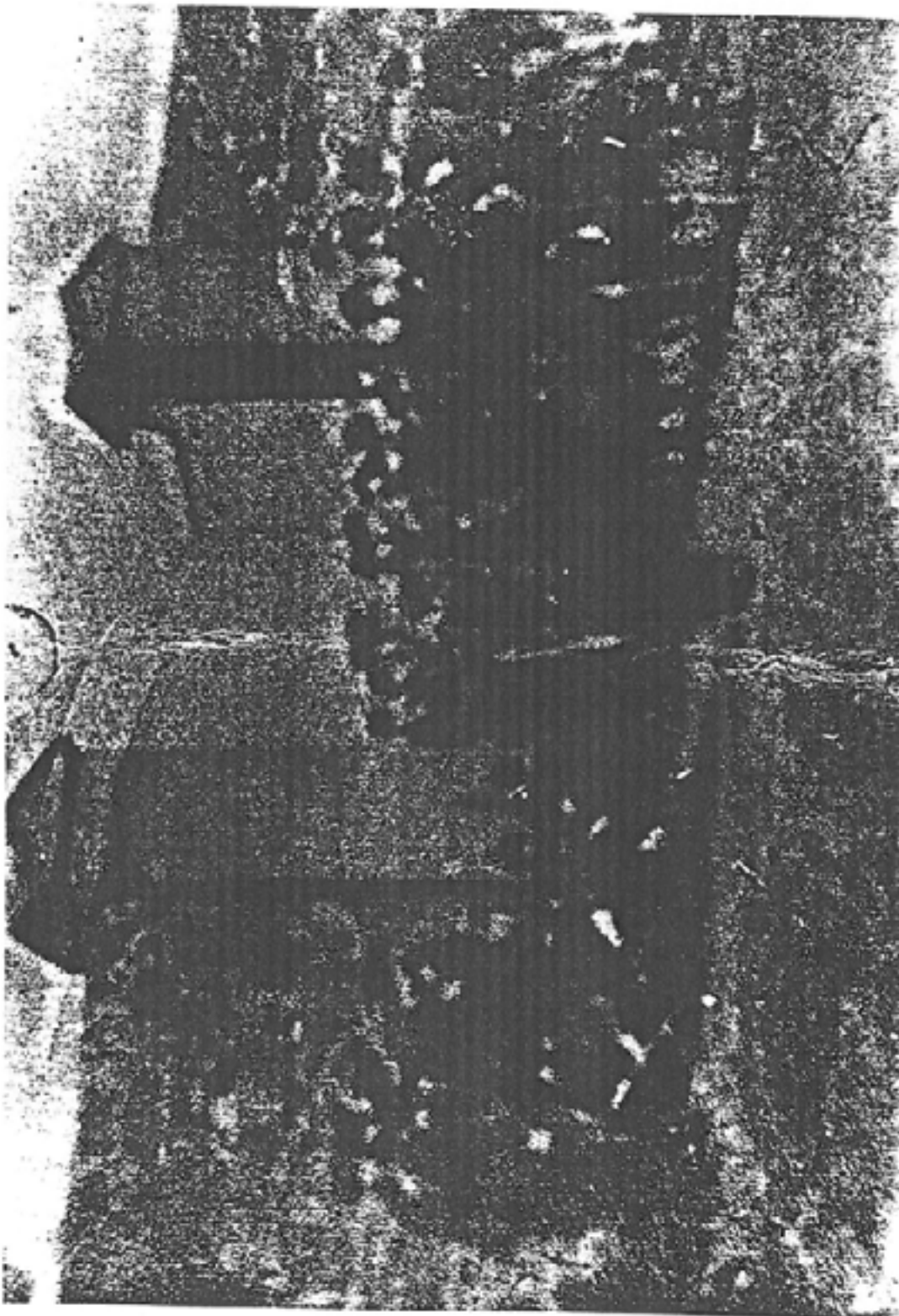


PLATE 10. Albert 1840's-1860's -military exercise.



"We understand that Colonel Gold and the Officers of the 65th Regt. have made arrangements to give their men a amusement on the ground at Albert Barracks, on Monday next. The sports are to commence at one o'clock and to consist of foot-racing, and other manly and healthful recreations and the public are to be admitted to the grounds as spectators."

New Zealander 20 March 1847.

On 19 May the New Zealander gave notice of a

"BIRTH DAY BALL -His Excellency the Governor and Lady Grey have issued cards of invitation to a Ball and Supper to be held at the Ordnance Store, Albert Barracks, on the 24th instant, in honour of her Majesty's natal day."

This event to be held in the Barracks was occasioned by the fact that Government House had been destroyed by fire on 23 June (Wood 1975:12). The most suitable alternative location was the Ordnance Store. Some may wonder whether the setting would provide the desired effect for a notable occurrence. Indeed it did. An account of the Ball was reported in the New Zealander of May 26, 1849. It provides a detailed and thoroughly delightful description of this notable social event. As such it deserves to be recounted in full.

"In the evening, a large and brilliant party assembled to enjoy the ball and supper, which had been catered for (in consequence of the absence of a Government House), with much liberality and good taste, in the Ordnance buildings of the Albert Barracks.

Considering the purposes to which those buildings are appropriated, it reflects infinite credit upon all concerned that the arrangements should have proved pleasing and so perfect. The ball room had a light, chaste, and even elegant air; its decorations and devices, however simple, being in harmonious keeping with the occasion. The walls and ceiling (sic.) were hung with white calico, divided by the painter's skill into neat and snowy compartments, whose sameness was relieved by occasional mirrors -stars, formed of martial weapons -draperies of flags - and festoons of evergreens. At the lower end of this Hall a characteristic

orchestra was placed, whilst a profile transparency of Her Majesty was suspended against its upper wall. The lighting of this handsome saloon was admirable. The large adjoining apartment was occupied as a refreshment room, whilst the lesser was appropriated as a ladies' tiring chamber.

Dancing commenced about ten o'clock, and quadrilles, polkas, waltzes, were in vigorous request until about one, when the guests descended to the banquet room, where a very magnificent supper was laid out in a very beautiful manner. There was a profusion of everything, and of the best. The viands, whether of the more substantial, or the more fanciful description, were excellent, and the wines of a very superior quality. Indeed, there was no stint in any department, liberality being the conspicuous features of the entertainment.

Among the native visitors were Te Whero Whero and two other chiefs who appeared to enjoy the brilliant scene equally as much as the non dansant portion of the European lookers on. The presence of these chiefs imparted a pleasing variety to the festivities of the evening, which were kept up to an early hour, few having retired, when, about two, we departed to woo Nature's soft nurse, And steep our senses in forgetfulness."

Between 1847 and 1869 the weekly and daily newspaper accounts of the activities taking place at Albert Barracks serve to emphasise that this important military installation had come to be the focal point of early colonial life in Auckland.

However, with the removal of the threat of further wars in the late 1860s, the necessity for the provision of military protection on this scale began to fade. The death knell for the Barracks arrived in the form of a telegram in the English mail confirming earlier despatches from Earl Granville to the Governor Sir George Bowen. The Weekly News of December 11th 1869 reports that

"the Imperial Government adheres to its announced policy and that the 18th Regiment is to be removed from this colony without delay"

Removal of the troops was completed in early 1870, and work on the demolition of the internal buildings began.

"The work of demolition is going on apace in the Albert Barracks. Yesterday notwithstanding the heavy rain, a number of people were

engaged in taking to pieces some of the huts recently sold; and in a few days they will have disappeared.

Southern Cross 23 April 1870.

Details of the layout of the internal buildings and wall surrounding the Barracks were recorded by F. Frissell during demolition work in 1871. The survey fieldbooks containing these notes were discovered in 1936 by Mr R. S. Fletcher of the Lands and Survey Department. There was no evidence to show that the notes had been converted into a map or plan. Realising the importance of these notes Mr Fletcher spent many months reconstructing from pages of calculations a plan that gave the precise measurements of the Barracks wall and the configuration of the buildings left within the boundaries (Fig. 3). The wooden huts along the north-east and south-east sectors had gone, but the remaining buildings and in some cases the materials with which they were constructed, are recorded in detail. Without doubt, the revelation of the contents of Frissell's notebook and the translation into map form, filled a crucial gap in early colonial history.

With the evacuation of the Barracks by the military forces and the removal and sale of many of the smaller buildings, attention finally turned to the massive and well built wall. The following account summarises its rise and fall.

“Another old landmark will soon pass away, and be numbered with the things of the past. The wall of the Albert Barracks is in process of demolition, work having been commenced at the southern side yesterday morning. The wall is now 23 years old, having been finished in the year 1850. It was built by the Maoris, under the superintendance of Mr George S. Graham, who was at that time acting engineer for the Imperial Government. The wall is built of blocks of scoria, which were obtained from Mount Eden, another lot of Maoris being occupied in quarrying at that place. The wall is a very strong one, as the workmen who are demolishing it will soon find out. Over the front gate there is an inscription in the Maori language, but it is so very much worn away



FIG. 3. Plan of Albert Barracks - Frissell 1871.

that it cannot be deciphered. The work is for the purpose of extending Wellesley-street as far as Symonds-street. The members of the Volunteer Artillery made an offer to blow up the whole of the wall which form the enclosure, without injury to life or property, in three days, if the authorities would find gunpowder. The authorities did not accept the offer."

NZ Herald 22 February 1873.

From a modern perspective the events of this period of colonial history appear to parallel the current practice of demolishing the old to make way for the new. The final conclusive evidence marking the end of Albert Barracks is graphically displayed in photographs taken during 1875 (Plates 11 and 12) which show that the removal of buildings and the demolition of the wall was well underway.

ALBERT PARK - ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT

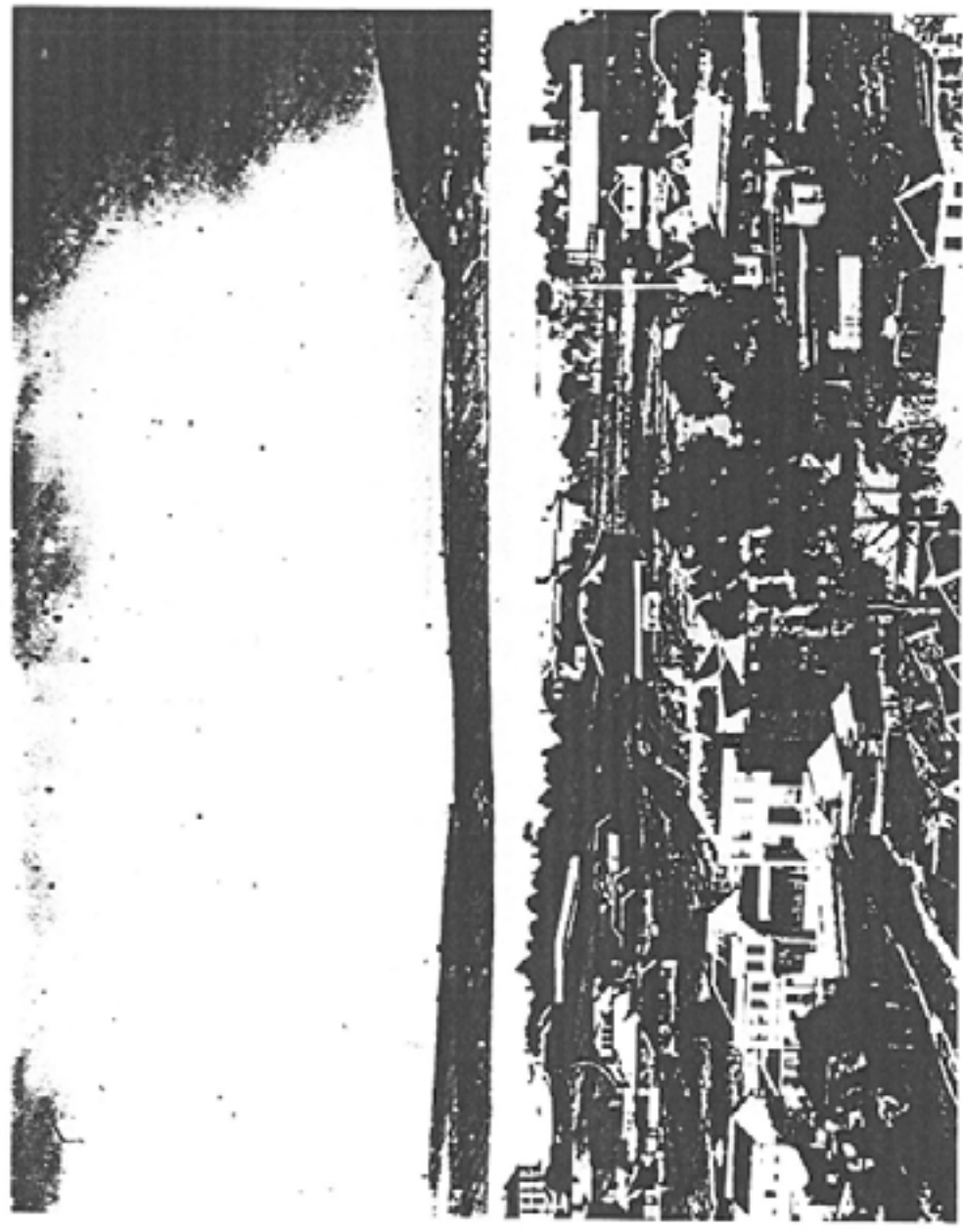
News of the impending departure of the Imperial Military forces in late 1869, confirmed by the despatches to Governor Bowen (AJHR 1870:46), raised the question of the disposal of the buildings, and the proposed use of the land. This aroused considerable public interest.

The British War Office, although willing to transfer to the Colonial Government a total of 17 acres of defence land, was keen to dispose of its assets within the Barracks enclosure for the best possible price. Such a sale would see the proceeds deposited within the Imperial Exchequer at a loss to the people of Auckland of both revenue and the best selection of reserve land.

On 5 January 1870 the editor of the New Zealand Herald aware of this potential loss to Auckland wrote:

"It is much to be desired that our local Government should purchase

PLATE 11. Albert Barracks 1875 - demolition underway.



(Sectional enlargement from AP, Reg. 2709, Auckland Public Library)
(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Public Library)

PLATE 12. Albert Barracks 1875 - stone Grenadier barracks, demolition.



(Sectional enlargement from APL Neg. 2709, Auckland Public Library).
(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Public Library)

these allotments at first hand, no matter what may ultimately be decided upon as to what is to become of the ground Private speculators should not, in this instance, be permitted to cut in and spoil the chance of rendering this site available as one of our public lungs."

The article provided the impetus for a flood of comment in the local press regarding the future use of the land within the walls of Albert Barracks. Strongly to the fore was the intensive desire for a public park on the site. The Southern Cross 17 January 1870 made a strong plea to the citizens of Auckland to precipitate some action.

"Presenting a calm retreat from city turmoil, it is at the same time so near as to be within reach of the jaded business-man from his desk, and the weary artisan from his handicraft, and if the people of Auckland by their apathy allow this reserve in whole or in part to be quietly appropriated to other purposes, they deserve the loss they will sustain."

The Auckland Weekly News was no less vociferous and joined in the fray by commenting that:

"The weary citizen of Auckland should have a pleasant, healthful place of promenade where laying aside the worries of business, and freed from the odoriferous exhalations of the city sewage, he may ... refresh his mind with pleasing scenes and breathe the pure breezes that heaven sends him."

Weekly News, January 19, 1870.

Strong support for the park concept was provided by Philip Aaron Philips, Auckland's first mayor. He had considerable influence with various members of the Central Government. As a result of this combined pressure the Governor, George Bowen, notified the War Office that the proposed sale of allotments within the Barracks was to be suspended until further decisions regarding the future use of the land had been made by the Government.

On 17 August 1870 the topic was taken up and hotly debated in Parliament. Ever mindful of the great interest shown by the inhabitants of Auckland, the Weekly News of 3 September 1870, reported the exchange of views in full. Mr Gillies proposed that "the land should be handed over in trust, for purposes agreed upon between the Colonial Government and the Provincial Government". At the same time Mr Gillies indicated that he "would wish to see the central portion of the ground kept as a place of public recreation. It was a very available spot for the recreation of the youth of the city ... it should be fenced in and beautified and kept in order". An opposing point of view was expressed by Colonel Haultain who strongly objected "to any large portion of the Albert Barracks ground being set apart a place for public recreation, which was not necessary in that locality, and was not required for the sanitary purposes of the town". Rather, Colonel Haultain proposed that if the Central Government was to be involved in any decision regarding the purpose to which the land was to be held in trust then "he hoped they would set it apart as an endowment for primary education in the province".

This opinion reflected another pressing need in Auckland, land and buildings for educational purposes. The problem was partially addressed when the large stone Grenadier Barracks building was set aside amidst some intense public feeling, to be used as a Grammar school.

The conflict was finally resolved for the Central Government when the decision was made to hand over the Barracks land to be administered in the public's interest by the Auckland Provincial Council. In 1871 the General Assembly approved the Auckland Military Reserves Act 1871 (Appendix 1). The first schedule included 23 acres 14 perches bounded on all sides by the military wall, plus four small adjoining military reserves, and was declared Crown land subject to the provisions of the Public Domains Act 1860 and the Amendment Act 1865.

The second schedule contained land on the east side of Symonds Street to be vested in the Superintendent of the Province of Auckland. Exceptions were such portions that had been set aside for public roads and as a reserve for the site of a Grammar school. A third schedule comprised the area of land known as Britomart Barracks and was to be vested in the Auckland Harbour Board. The high regard with which the Barracks wall was held can be seen in Point 8 of the Act which reads,

"Nothing herein contained shall authorize the destruction of the wall surrounding the land referred to in the First Schedule to this Act unless with the express permission of the Governor in Council."

The Provincial Council on receipt of the land was in conflict as to whether to convert it to a public park or to develop the land for profit. This revived the debate within the press to a level where public opinion prevailed to the extent that the Council decided on 'recreational' use.

In 1872 the Auckland Improvement (Albert Barracks Reserves) Act was passed which clearly set out provisions for the improvement of the City of Auckland (Appendix 2). With the appointment of the City Improvement Commissioners, charged with the responsibility of administering the Act, 16 acres of land was reserved for recreational use with the remainder to be leased on a 99 year basis.

In 1872 the Southern Cross newspaper printed a report in which the City Improvement Commissioners were to offer a premium for the best plan of laying out the grounds of Albert Barracks as provided for by the Act of 1872. The premium was set at Thirty pounds and by early 1873 four plans had been received. However, the Commissioners were unwilling to be bound by one single plan, and decided after close examination, to combine the best features from one or two and

'so out of the whole form one that will be eminently suitable' (N.Z. Herald January 17, 1873). For some reason no further action eventuated, and for the next five years the future of Albert Park was shrouded in uncertainty.

It is possible that commercial prospects had taken precedence to civic concerns. The City Improvement Commission was in financial difficulties having insufficient funds to develop the whole area under its administration. In 1873 the Commission published a plan of recommended alterations to the City of Auckland (Fig. 4). This plan showed proposed new streets and modifications to the existing layout. At this stage it was obvious that although the north-east and north-west sections wall had not yet been demolished, the intention was to extend Princes Street south. New streets planned included Alfred Street, O'Rourke Street, Park Place and Wellesley Street East. Sections for sale or lease were marked along Alfred Street and O'Rourke Street. No alterations along the west side of Princes Street or within the western half of the former Barracks were indicated.

July of 1873 a contractor, Mr Blowden, was forming the continuation of Princes Street from the Northern Club past Government House grounds where the fence had been removed and set back 10 feet to allow for a better line (Southern Cross July 15, 1873). Problems initially occurred with tree planting along the verge of the new road. Mr Wren of Mt Hobson nursery in a letter to the Council, explained that soil would have to be brought in and continually loosened to provide a good medium for the growth of trees. With an acknowledged lack of funds, the Commission was hard pressed to afford this work let alone the price of 6/- quoted for each lime and linden tree (Southern Cross July 16, 1874). However, by the late 1870s funds had obviously been procured as trees were flourishing along the length of Princes Street.

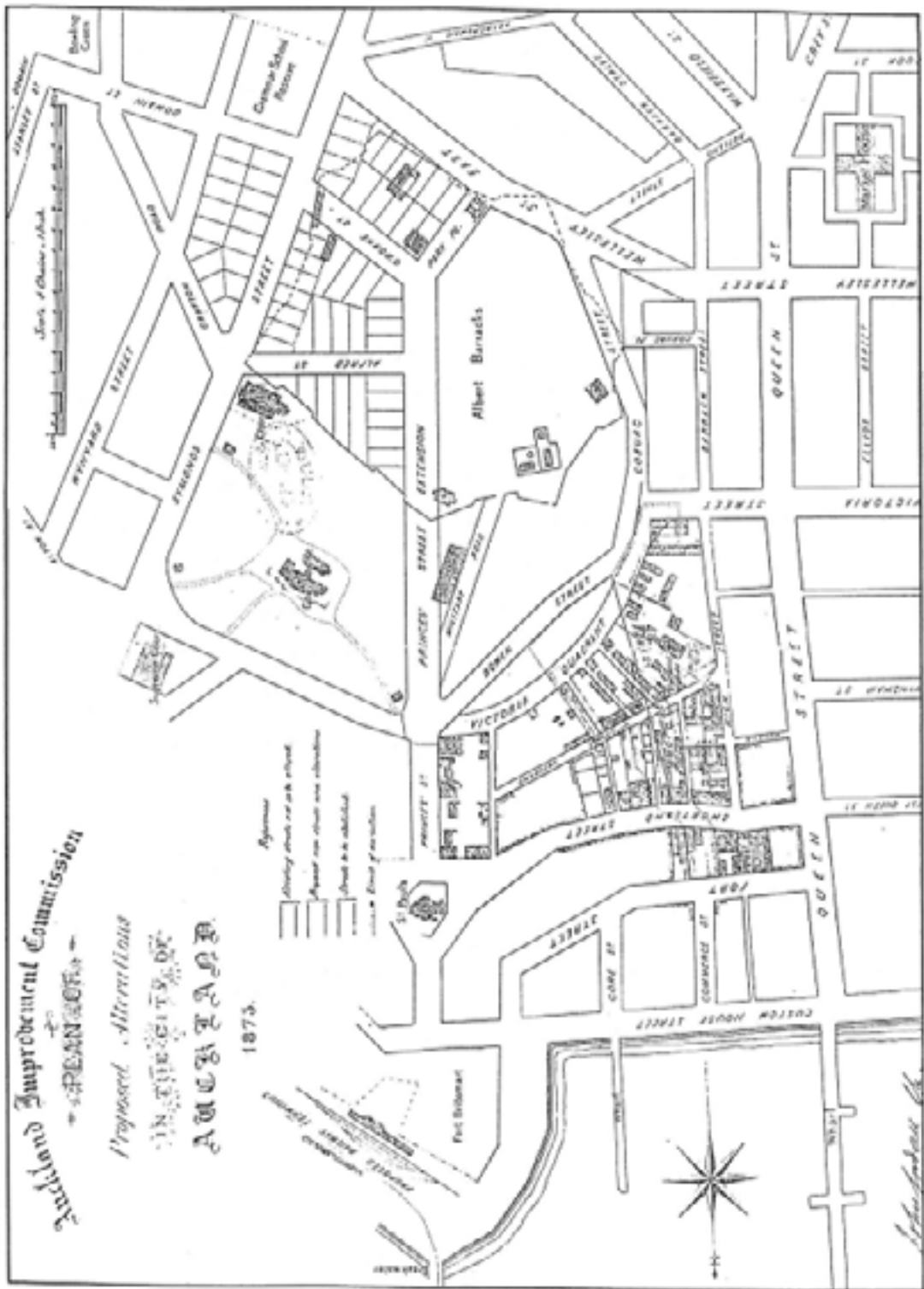


FIG. 4. Plan of proposed alterations in the City of Auckland - 1873.

The decision to allotments and to lease others on reserve land, was seen as a means of alleviating financial pressures. In October 1875 the Improvement Commission produced a plan of building allotments to be leased for 99 years (Fig. 5). Land along the west side of Princes Street was to be subdivided into 16 allotments. These sections, considered to be prime building spots, were to be leased by public auction in late 1875. An advertisement appearing in the Southern Cross December 2, 1875 includes the full range of land for lease. The number of sections on west Princes Street had been reduced from the original 16 to 14 (Fig. 6). These properties were to be leased on a 99 year term with no right of renewal at a yearly rental of 1/- per year, and a 'foregift of Six hundred and sixty pounds'. "This foregift was understood by some to be used for the improvement of Albert Park, but residents of longstanding and equally long memories do not recall the funds which accrued from the subdivision being devoted to any such purpose" (Easdale 1978). After the 99 year lease had expired the buildings were to be removed and the land incorporated into the present Albert Park.

The regulations regarding construction of houses on these sections was quite specific. All plans had to be approved by the City Commissioners, and in respect of the houses "nothing less than a two-storied house worth at least Seven hundred pounds has to be erected on the section" (Easdale n.d.). Originally it was stipulated that residences should be constructed in brick or stone, but later timber was accepted as a suitable material. Of the first five houses erected along this section of Princes Street, only No. 31 (at the southern end) was built of brick.

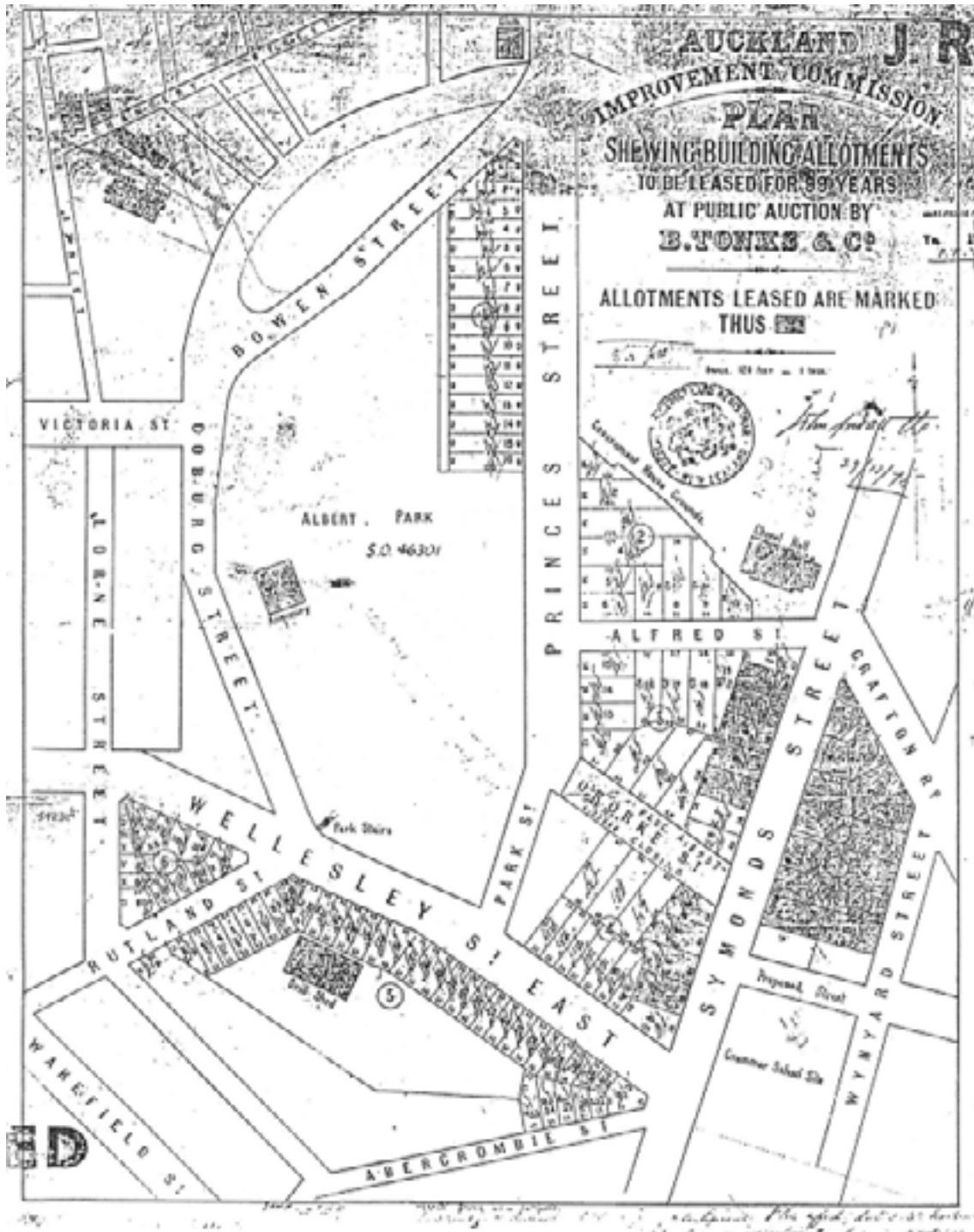


FIG. 5. Plan of building allotments - Auckland Improvement Commission 1875.



THIS DAY.

BY ORDER OF THE AUCKLAND
IMPROVEMENT COM-
MISSIONERS.

GRANT & MORTON have been favoured
with instructions to Lease by public auction,
at their Mart, This Day, at 12 o'clock noon,

99
YEARS LEASES
OF

MAGNIFICENT RESIDENCE SITES,
ALBERT BARRACK RESERVE.

- Section 1, 14 Allotments, Princes-street, fronting Government House Grounds
- Section 2 and 3, 10 allotments, 88 feet frontage on Eastern side Princes-street
- Section — 8 allotments in Alfred-street
- Section 3 and 4, 0 allotments, 60 feet frontage in O'Rourke-street
- Section 3, 2 allotments 60 feet frontage in Symonds-street
- Section 4 and 5, 20 allotments, 33 feet frontage in Wellerley-street East
- Section 6, 4 allotments, 41 feet frontage in Wellerley-street East
- Section 5, 5 allotments, 33 feet frontage in Abercrombie-street
- Section 5 and 6, 14 allotments, 43 feet frontage in Bushland and Lorne streets

The Auctioneers would call SPECIAL ATTENTION to this sale, which affords the only opportunity to COMMERCIAL MEN of securing SITES for VILLA RESIDENCES, within Five MINUTES walk of their places of business. All the streets have been thoroughly well formed, installed, channelled, sewered, and lit with gas.

Attention is most particularly directed to these allotments in Section No. 1, fronting Government House Grounds, which are limited in number, being 14 in all, and having an unobscured and uninterrupted view of the HARBOUR, NORTH SHORE, MAURAKI GULF, DOMAIN, MT. EDEN, CITY and SUBURBS, combining all the advantages of a SUBURBAN RESIDENCE with close proximity to the CITY.

The Lease for 99 YEARS in this Section will be sold with the option to the buyer of allowing the purchase money to remain on Interest at 5 per cent. per ANNUM, with a sinking fund of one-half per cent.

ATTENTION is also called to the ALLOTMENTS in WELLESLEY-STREET EAST, which, as BUSINESS SITES, are unquestionably FIRST-CLASS, as this street is the MAIN THOROUGHFARE from the CITY, with largely increasing suburbs.

Purchasers may build in wood on any portion of the property.

Enlarged Plans can be obtained at the Mart, and the office of the Improvement Commissioners.

Conditions of sale and all particulars on application to Auctioneers.

FIG. 6. Advertisement for leased allotments, Albert Barracks Reserve, 1875.

The first were finalised in 1876 and building began in the following year. Unsold lots were re-advertised for lease by public auction on 9 August 1878 (Auckland Star 8 July 1878).

A panorama photograph taken in the early 1880s shows the Princes Street extension with a number of impressive houses opposite Government House. Buildings in the former Barracks reserve are still apparent. These were in use as a barracks for the police (Plate 13).

With the construction of buildings along Princes Street West progressing rapidly, the Improvement Commission revived its interest in the development of the remaining Barracks land. Invitations were now offered for plans to be submitted for the laying out of the Albert Barracks for Recreation and Cricket Ground (Auckland Star 8 July 1878). A prize of Ten pounds was awarded to W. Goldie for the winning entry entitled Puriri (Adam 1988). However, once again no further action was taken to develop the area, and plans fell into abeyance.

By 1880 the City Council had taken over the role of the Improvement Commission. On 11 March 1881, in response to an earlier advertisement seeking plans for laying out the ground in Albert Park, the Council awarded Ten pounds to the plan of James Slator under the motto *Fodi aut morire Porci* (Fig. 7). This design was to 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" (N.Z. Herald 11 March 1881). Albert Park the 'peoples park' was finally-secured.

Development of the gardens and features within the Park may be traced through the numerous photographs held by the Auckland Public Library and the Auckland Institute and Museum Library. The purpose for which the park was originally created -a place for people to wander and meet among pleasant gardens and fine trees is well demonstrated.

PLATE 13. Auckland early 1830's. Albert Barracks centre back.
Note new Princes Street properties.



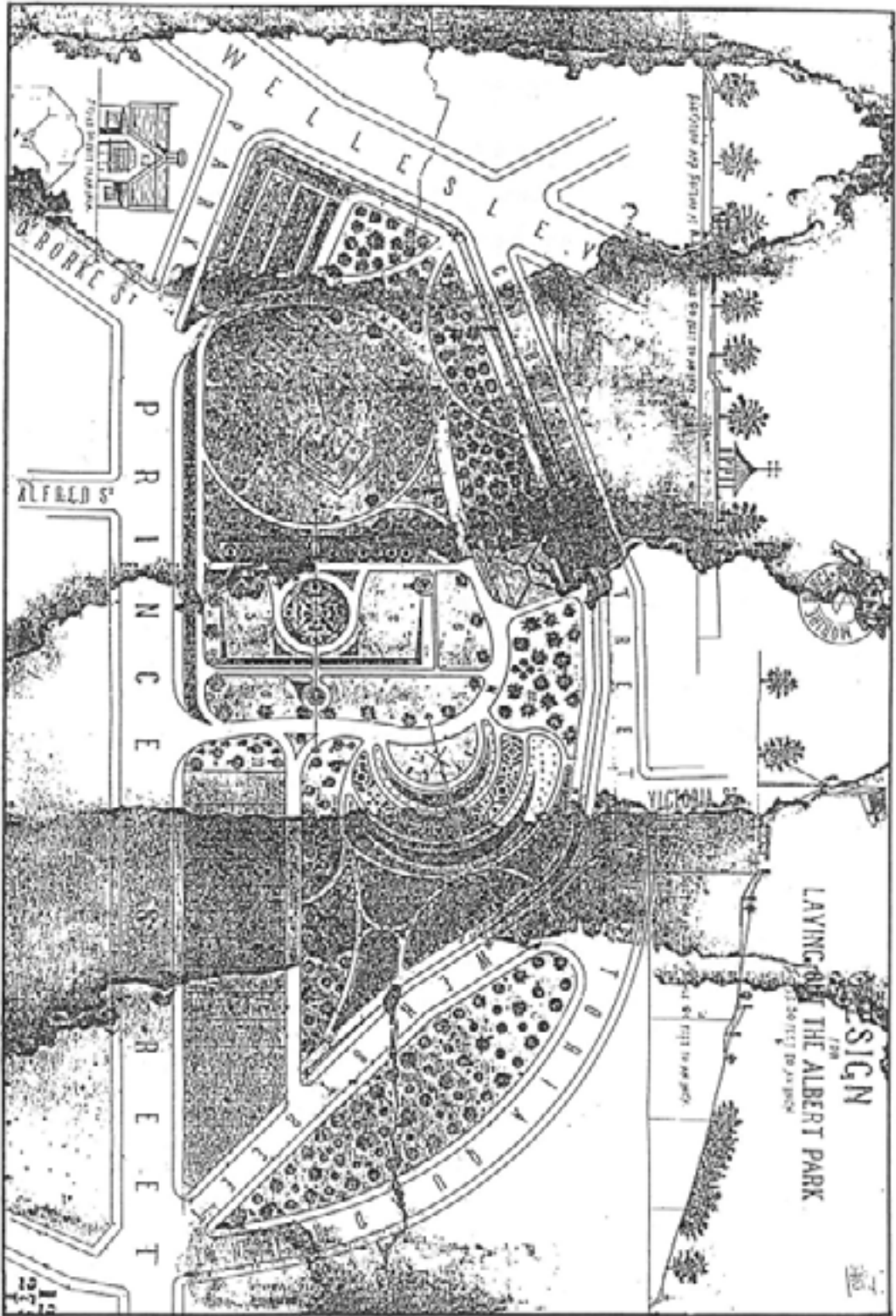


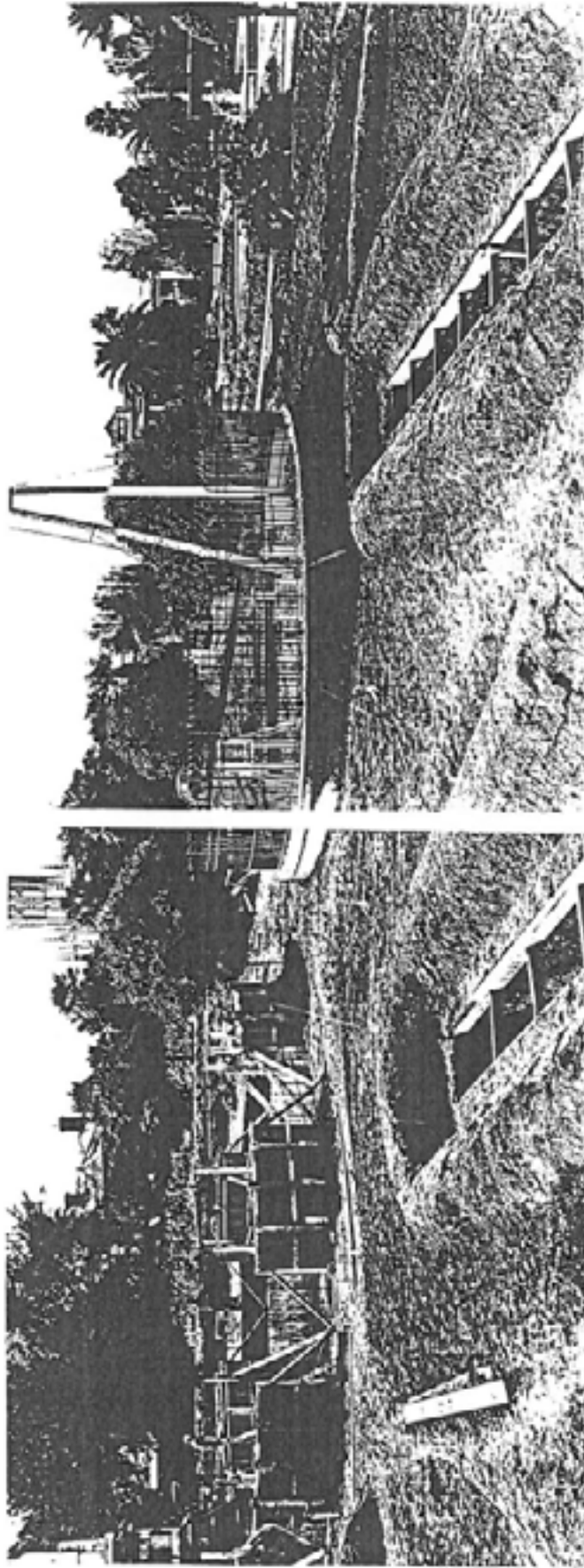
FIG. 7. Design for laying out the Albert Park - Stetson 1881.

Family groups may be observed walking and picnicking in the park and commemorative occasions marking events of some consequence are depicted as being well patronised.

The most crucial changes affecting the layout of the park occurred during the Second World War. After the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, the park was the scene of great upheaval. Extensive tunnel networks were cut into the hillside to provide Air Raid shelters in the event of an air attack. Although these did not disturb the ground surface, evidence of former activities associated with the Barracks were located. Contractors excavating the tunnels almost broke through the wall of a well that had been dug on the old barracks site. Fortunately work was halted when labourers noticed a steady stream of water flowing along the tunnel floor. When this had ceased, they broke through to discover a substantial well shaft. Time was against any detailed exploration as haste was required to finish the civil defence work (Auckland Star 16 April 1957). The senior city surveyor did take the opportunity to check the accuracy of the 1871 Frissell map by instructing the workers to dig at the position indicated on the map of another well. After digging down four feet they struck a covering of corrugated iron and wood covering this well. The centre of this well "was only two feet from the point marked 'well' on Mr Fletcher's map" and confirmed the remarkable degree of accuracy that had been obtained when converting the calculations of Frissell's 1871 notebook (Auckland Star 16 April 1957). Which particular well was found was not indicated.

Meanwhile in the park itself, large areas were dug up for slit trenches and tunnel shafts (Plate 14). At the conclusion of the war, the park was restored by filling damaged areas, laying new paths and re-grassing.

PLATE 14. Slit trenches and tunnel shaft, Albert Park - early 1940's



(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Institute and Museum.)

No records have been kept of subsequent modifications, but Parks and Reserves Department staff are confident that little has changed since the War.

Today Albert Park retains the character and function foreseen by Auckland citizens of the 1870s. At the northern end of the park when the leases expired on the properties along the west side of Princes Street, the land was vested in the City Council for upkeep and care. Fences at the rear of Nos. 31 and 29 were removed to give a feeling of continuity with the park concept.

Plans to landscape this area were instrumental in initiating the current presentation project. How this can be achieved rests largely on a number of archaeological factors that require discussion and clarification.

HISTORIC SITE CONTEXT

Historic archaeological sites are afforded the same protection rights as prehistoric sites under the Historic Places Act 1980, but the issues surrounding their protection are complex. The most immediate and crucial problem relates to the management decisions that have to be made with regard to a particular site or sites. In general a decision is not made until the site itself becomes endangered. The response to this threat hinges on the recommendations made as a result of the documented evidence and the archaeological viability of that particular site. The speed of the threatened destruction and the time constraints imposed by the building development programme have led in the main to decisions based on salvage issues. This tended to preclude a variety of other management options.

Site Location and Selection for Investigation

Before any management decision is made it is necessary to establish whether an archaeological site exists in the area under consideration. This requires a systematic search of archival sources including the 1842, 1866, and 1888 maps of street directories; valuation lists; deeds of ownership; early colonial newspapers; paintings, sketches and photographs.

By collating this information the history of the site can be firmly established. The state of preservation of the archaeological materials is always an unknown factor, but generally site history can provide a reasonable indication as to whether subsequent buildings have obliterated previous archaeological evidence.

The next step has been to select sites for further investigation when the opportunity arises. The criteria for site selection regardless of whether it is an issue of salvage or tied to a specific research problem rests on both the significance of the site and its likelihood of survival. Site significance may be generally related to historic, public, and scientific values. Selection of sites for investigation has to provide for a representative sample of early colonial history. The working site categories of interest are:

1. Public Sites -Provincial Assembly, General Assembly, Gaol and Courthouse, Civil Service sites, Fortifications, Schools.
2. Civic Sites -Mechanics Institute and Public Library, Newspaper Offices, Hospitals.
3. Amenities Sites -Blacksmiths shops, Bakeries, Theatres, General stores, Industrial sites, Maori hostels, Water Works and Reticulation Schemes, Wharves.
4. Important Private Buildings -Officials homes e.g. Willoughby Shortland - Colonial Secretary.

5. Private Houses -showing a range of socio-economic levels.

Management Options

Having ascertained if a site is representative of the research criteria and assessed the likelihood of viable remains, a series critical management questions must be addressed:

- a) Is it possible to save the site?
- b) Is the site worth saving?
- c) Is any level of further investigation warranted?
- d) Is there cause to believe that the site contains information of sufficient importance to justify a major excavation?

The choice of available management options will rest on the answers provided in response to these questions. There are five options that can be applied to the initial management of inner city historic archaeological sites:

1. Total preservation of the site.
2. Level of intervention that will allow eventual presentation of the site.
3. Destruction of the site after thorough investigation including excavation.
4. Destruction of the site after minimal recording and observation during re-development.
5. Destruction of the site with observation restricted to recording information on the Site Record form.

In 1988, the Auckland City Council applied to the NZ Historic Places Trust for an Authority to Modify an archaeological site in Albert Park. This was in order to remove rubble and piles remaining after the demolition of two wooden buildings at the rear of 31 Princes Street in preparation for landscaping. According to the

information on record, the Guardhouse associated with Albert Barracks was located in the area where the wooden buildings had been removed.

The known documented existence of the site and its historic significance ensures that it meets the first requirement within the framework of criteria for selection. The next step is to the viability of the archaeological remains and to choose a suitable management option.

SITE R11/833 - 31 PRINCES STREET

Between 1875 - 1876 a substantial brick 'gentleman's residence' (Pembridge) was built on the section identified as 31 Princes Street. A check of the 1882 map of Auckland indicated that in addition to the residence, one small rectangular brick building and a long corrugated iron building (continuing onto the adjoining section) were erected along the rear boundary (Fig. 8). It is not known when these buildings were demolished, but certainly by 1908 the long building had gone (Fig. 9). A photograph taken from the University Clock Tower in the 1930s looks west over Pembridge and the northern part of the Park. A fence and hedge are shown on the righthand side and back of the property. Little else can be seen in the background (Plate 15). Subsequently, when the University of Auckland took over the lease of 31 Princes Street, two light-weight prefabricated buildings were placed on the section between the house and the back boundary.

In 1980 the Lands and Survey Department re-checked the measurements and configuration of the Frissell 1871 survey map of Albert Barracks. This map was then overlaid onto the 1980 aerial photograph of Albert Park. The photograph shows the full extent of Albert Barracks, the location of the major buildings within the confines of the surrounding wall, and the relationship of the structures to the

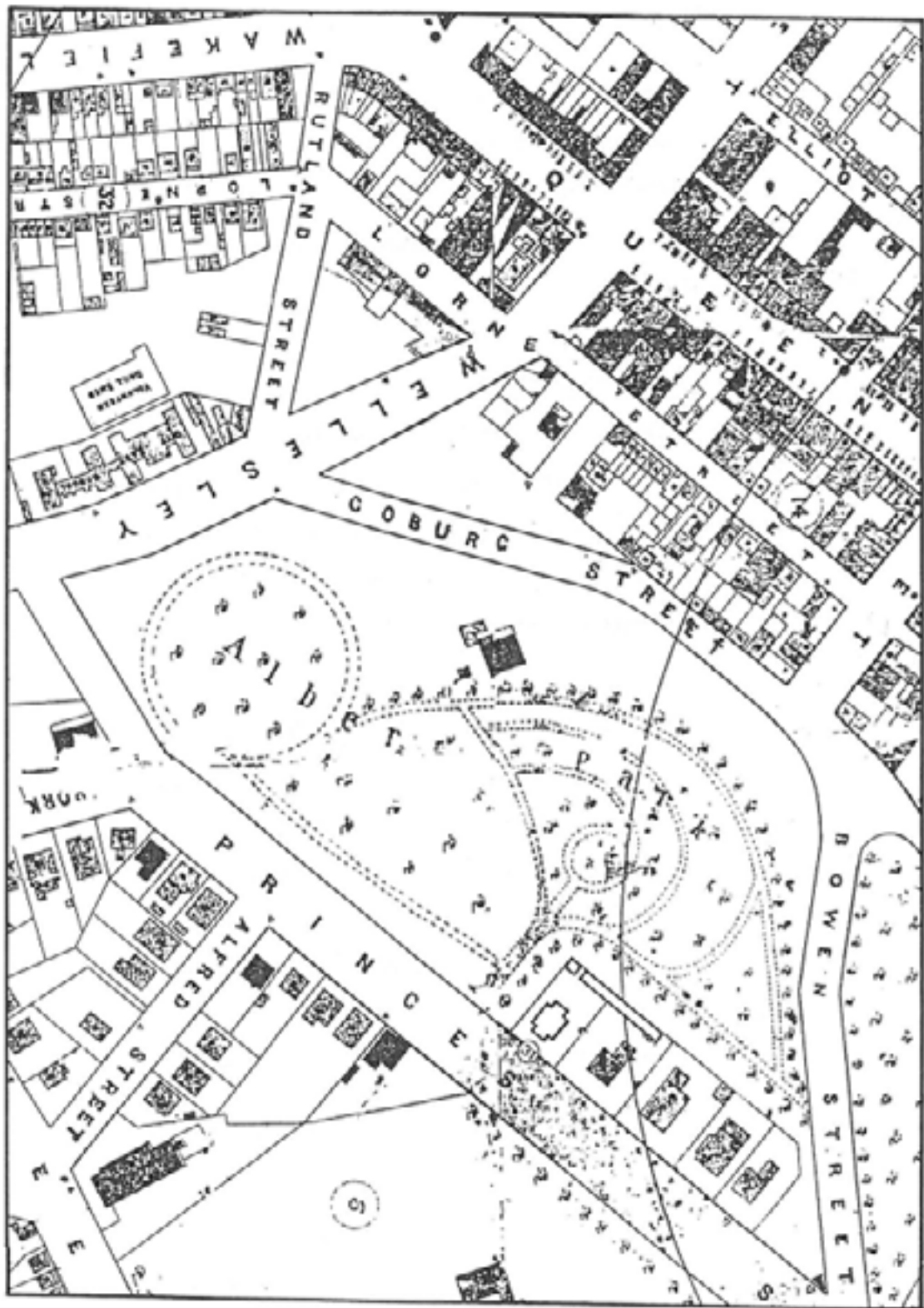


FIG. 8. Plan of Albert Park and Princes Street west - 1882.

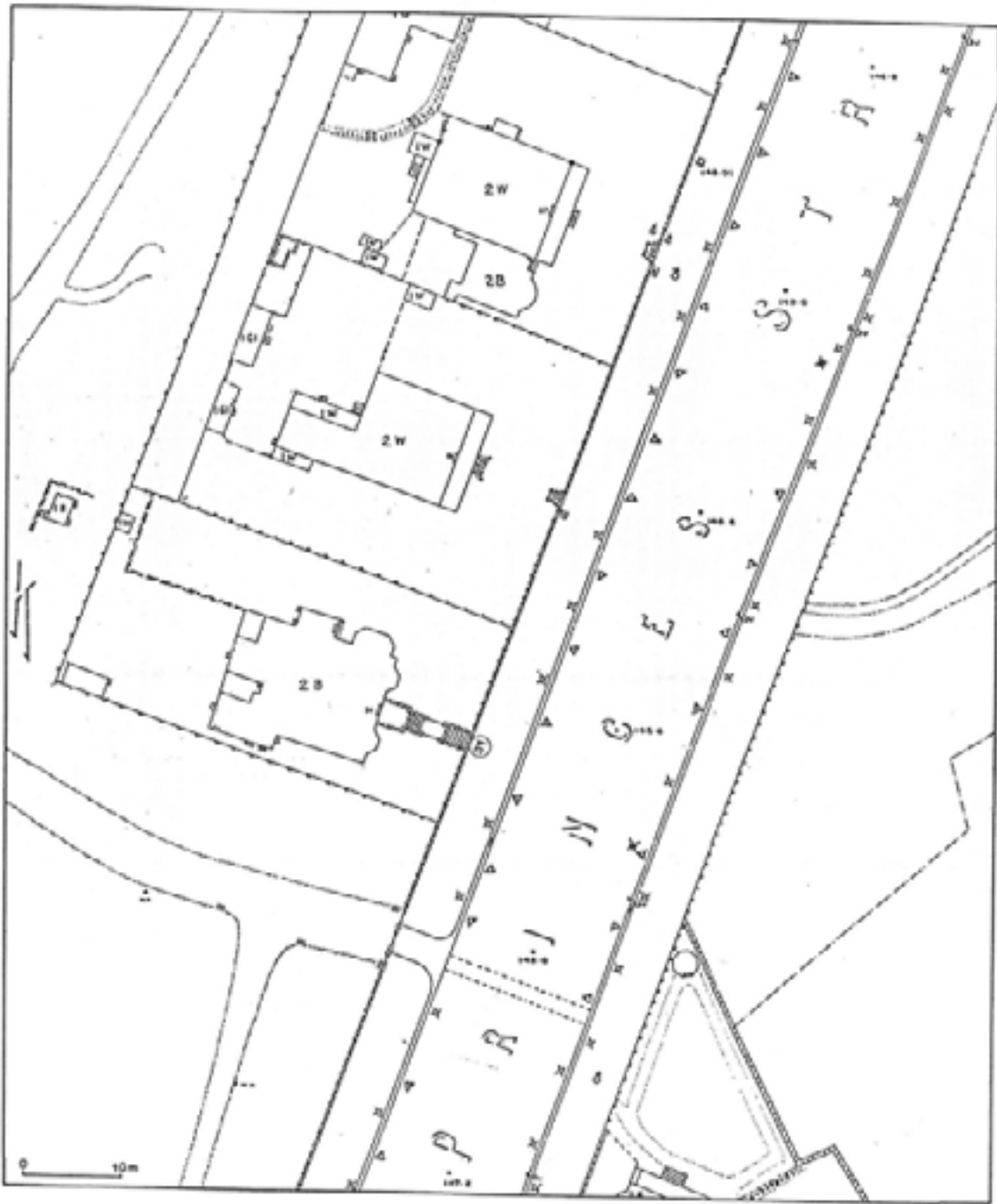


FIG. 9. Plan of Princes Street west, showing 31, Princes Street -1908.

Plate 15. View across 31 Princes Street, "Pembroke" - 1930's.



(Reproduced by permission of the Auckland Institute and Museum.)

present day street system (Fig. 10). Examination of the overlay indicates that the western section of the Guardhouse appears to lie under the prefabricated buildings, with the remaining section securely trapped beneath the existing brick structure (Pembroke-31 Princes Street).

Although the site building history suggested a good chance for the survival of cultural deposits associated with the Guardhouse, the degree of subsurface disturbance remained unclear. This point can be illustrated by the 1980 excavation results of an Albert Barracks Well. Restoration of the well adjacent to the Barracks Military Prison was considered by the Auckland Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust, to be a project that would partially redress the lack of permanent features associated with this important period of history.

An archaeological excavation of a single 6 metre square centred on the shaft of the well was carried out under the direction of R.K. Nichol. (Nichol n.d.). In his report Nichol provided evidence to prove that the area excavated was structurally complex. Evidence of World War slit trenches, tunnels and later attempts to clean up the park was found during the excavation. These factors added to the complexity of reconstruction. Despite these problems Nichol was able to provide some hint of detail as to the well superstructure, which allowed for the eventual reconstruction of the well as it stands today in Albert Park.

The difficulties experienced with this relatively small excavation raised the spectre of similar difficulties occurring at 31 Princes Street. While there was reasonable assurance that no civil defence activities had taken place in the backyard, the only certain means of establishing whether or not archaeological remains were present

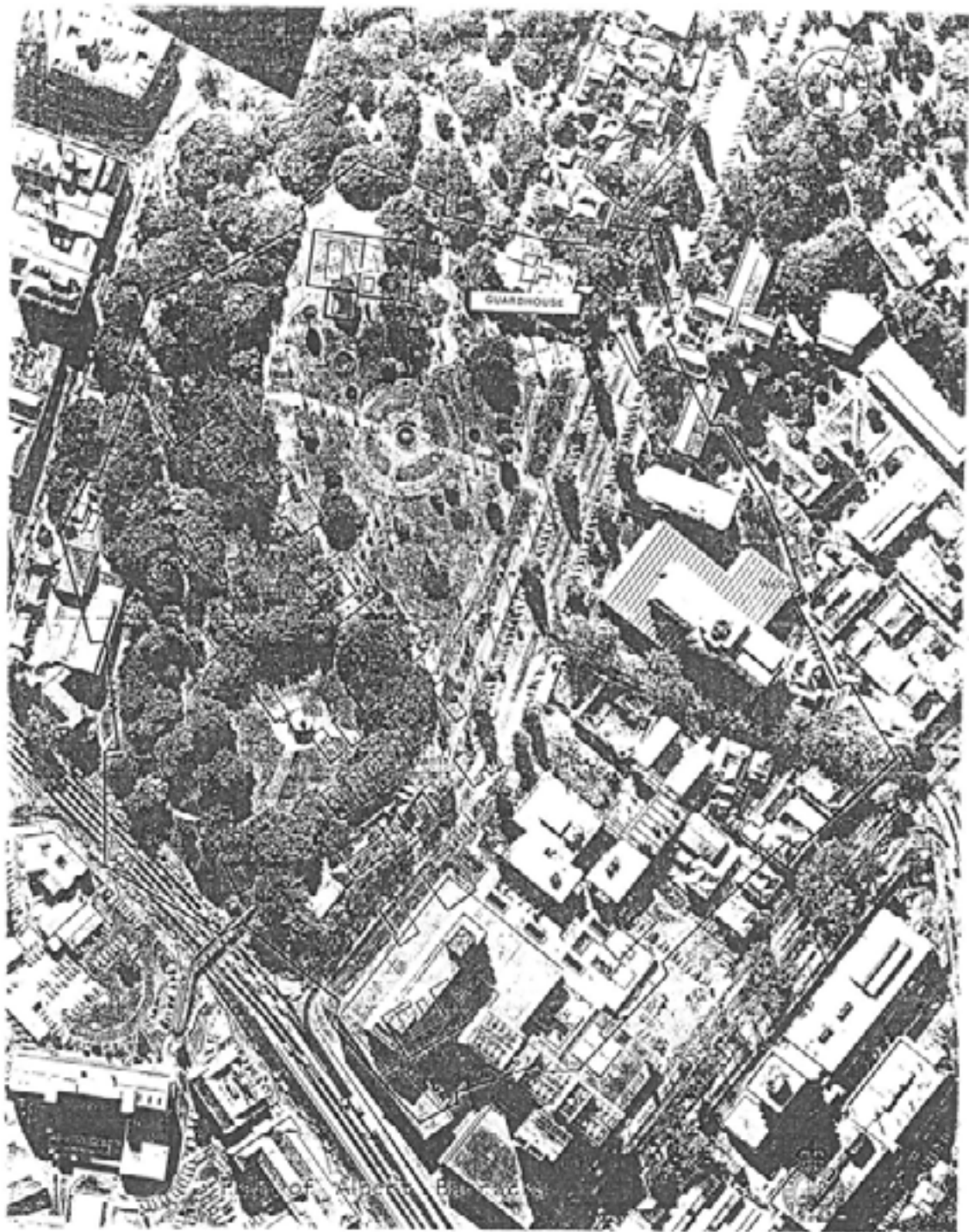


Fig. 10. Aerial photograph (1980) of Albert Park with overlay of Albert Barracks.

was by excavation. Small scale excavation, though often useful, invariably provides limited information. Excavations covering a large area, while providing more information, are time consuming and costly. The Auckland City current financial constraints and the immediate necessity to implement a landscaping programme, promoted a situation where large scale excavation was not possible. Quite clearly an alternative site management option was required.

The two options open to the City Council following removal of the rubble and piles were as follows:

1. Total preservation of an archaeological site, although the most desirable management option, is invariably the most difficult to achieve. The greatest opportunity for successfully preserving a site lies in land under Public Ownership. This land, generally in reserves, has the added advantage of few buildings overlying the original site and therefore offers the best chance for the survival of archaeological remains. The Guardhouse site under threat and now vested in the Council meets the above criteria.

Practical consideration in this case should be given to clearing the rubble by hand and grassing the area completely. To ensure no site disturbance there should be a restriction on further planting. This level of management decision involves minimal cost and maintenance, and what remains of the site is totally preserved.

2. The opportunity to both preserve and present a site occurs infrequently. Such an option is possible for the Guardhouse site. A minimal level of intervention is required, that could lead to both partial preservation and eventual public presentation. This would involve the examination of soil stratigraphy when the rubble and piles are removed to determine if any cultural remains are present, and if so at what depth they occur. The most desirable level of archaeological information

would be to locate features associated with the Guardhouse. The location of this structure could then be plotted on existing maps and marked out in some way on the ground surface. The site would then be presented to the public in the form of a permanent information display unit. Grass ground cover would ensure that the cost of maintenance remains low.

On further consultation with the City Council the decision was made to adopt in principle the second proposal, with a provision to extend the presentation aspect. A three stage programme was then designed to:

Locate and mark for eventual public presentation, a section of the northern Barracks Wall, the main entrance to the Barracks and part of the Guardhouse.

A brief summary of the proposal is presented below. The first stage fieldwork and report was to be completed by early 1990, with the second and third stages being undertaken throughout the rest of that year.

Stage 1 -Archaeological Investigation and Historic Research.

A recommendation granting an Authority to the Auckland City Council in respect to the removal of demolition materials and piles from the rear of 31 Princes Street, was conditional on archaeological monitoring, recording and small scale testing. An historical review, paying particular attention to the construction, use and demolition of Albert Barracks, followed by a study of the origins and development of Albert Park was to be undertaken. All available early maps were to be used to

determine the correct configuration of Barracks buildings and wall. The Frissell 1871 survey map, overlaid onto the aerial photograph, was to be checked for accuracy. By combining this historical information with the data from the limited archaeological investigation, it was expected that it should be possible to plot and mark the features planned for presentation accurately.

Stage 2 -Location of Northern Wall and Main Entrance to Barracks.

The method of approach is to implement scale test trenching or test pitting to establish whether any subsurface foundations of the wall and gate pillars remain. If these could be located, then a ground plan is to be drawn to incorporate the northern section of the wall and the main gateway to Albert Barracks.

Stage 3 -Site Presentation

Issues still to be decided by the Auckland City Council and the Department of Conservation include how much of the features to present and the best method to do so. In addition the proposed landscaping programme including the planting of trees will require revision on completion of the fieldwork to ensure that no damage occurs to the archaeological remains. The following specific issues need to be addressed:

- 1 Proportion of
- 2 Method of presentation.
- 3 Landscaping design.
- 4 Nature of illustrative material to be presented and location of such material.

Planning of this stage will take place when these issues have been addressed.

STAGE 1

Locating the Guardhouse

Central to the success of the project, was the ability to determine from the historic documentation, the position of the Guardhouse. Although no map actually defined the building, the accepted position is just inside the main North gate (Lennard n.d.). A scale drawing of a small building in this position is illustrated on the 1871 Frissell plan (Fig. 3). Confirmation for the existence of this building was provided by a photograph which shows the building among others within Albert Barracks (Plate 7).

A comparative study of early maps and plans with the present layout of 31 Princes Street should have enabled the configuration of the Barracks wall to be determined. When this was completed the correct placement of the Guardhouse could be established.

Method

The first accurate survey of properties within Auckland City resulted in the production of the 1908 Street map. A section of the Barracks wall that had not yet been demolished is shown adjoining the eastern side of Princes Street (Fig. 9). Individual sections with incumbent buildings are clearly illustrated.

By using the measurements of the Frissell 1871 plan the line of the wall was continued across Princes Street to fix a point (A) at the centre corner of the

north-west bastion. The north section of the wall including the main gate was then drawn onto the 1908 map.

The section on which No. 31 "Pembridge" is situated is adjacent to Albert Park and covers Lots 13 and 14 on the original lot plan of 1875 (Fig. 5). The current Certificate of Title (Appendix 3) lists the property as Lot 3 of deposited plan 114585 and being part of Subsection 1 of Section 13 City of Auckland. No alteration has taken place to the size of the original section.

Pembridge (No. 31) was built in 1877-78. Although no plans exist for the original building, it was understood to be similar to that shown on the 1908 plan - a substantial two storied brick residence. An architectural inspection of the outer form of the present building confirmed that some structural changes had occurred since 1908. However, there was no evidence to indicate that any alterations had been made to the south-west corner of the house. This corner was used as the second fixed point (B).

The Guardhouse was then drawn to the scale of the 1908 map using the Frissell measurements and placed in position on the 1908 map (Fig. 11). When compared with the 1980 aerial photograph, it can be seen that the placement of the Guardhouse differs slightly. If accurate, it would appear that only a small part at the rear of the building lies under Pembridge. The bulk of the guardhouse should be situated beyond the back of the present house. This new plan was used during the subsequent phases of the archaeological investigation.

Test Excavation Site R11/833

Introduction

The procedure envisaged for the archaeological investigation of the site (i.e. removal of concrete piles followed by a test excavation) was amended. This was due to the inability of the Auckland City Council to provide the necessary staff and equipment on the planned starting date. Therefore the test excavation was undertaken first under Permit No. 1988/20, over a period of three days. Selected piles were removed later.

Method

The excavation was planned to cover the estimated position of the Guardhouse shown on Fig. 11. With the possibility of later building foundations cutting across the northern half of the Guardhouse, the most sensible option was to concentrate on the southern section of the building. Rubble left on the site after the removal of the prefabricated buildings was heavy. The clearest area lay in the vicinity of the south-east corner of the presumed Guardhouse location.

A 2 x 2 m square was prepared for excavation and recording by removing the demolition material. Excavation was undertaken by spade and trowel in stratigraphic layers to subsoil level. Provision was made to extend the area by limited trenching if structural evidence was found.

At the same time it was considered desirable to check for foundations of later buildings in order to complete the site's structural history. This was to be carried out across the northern section of the site, initially by probing, followed by limited test trenching and test pits.

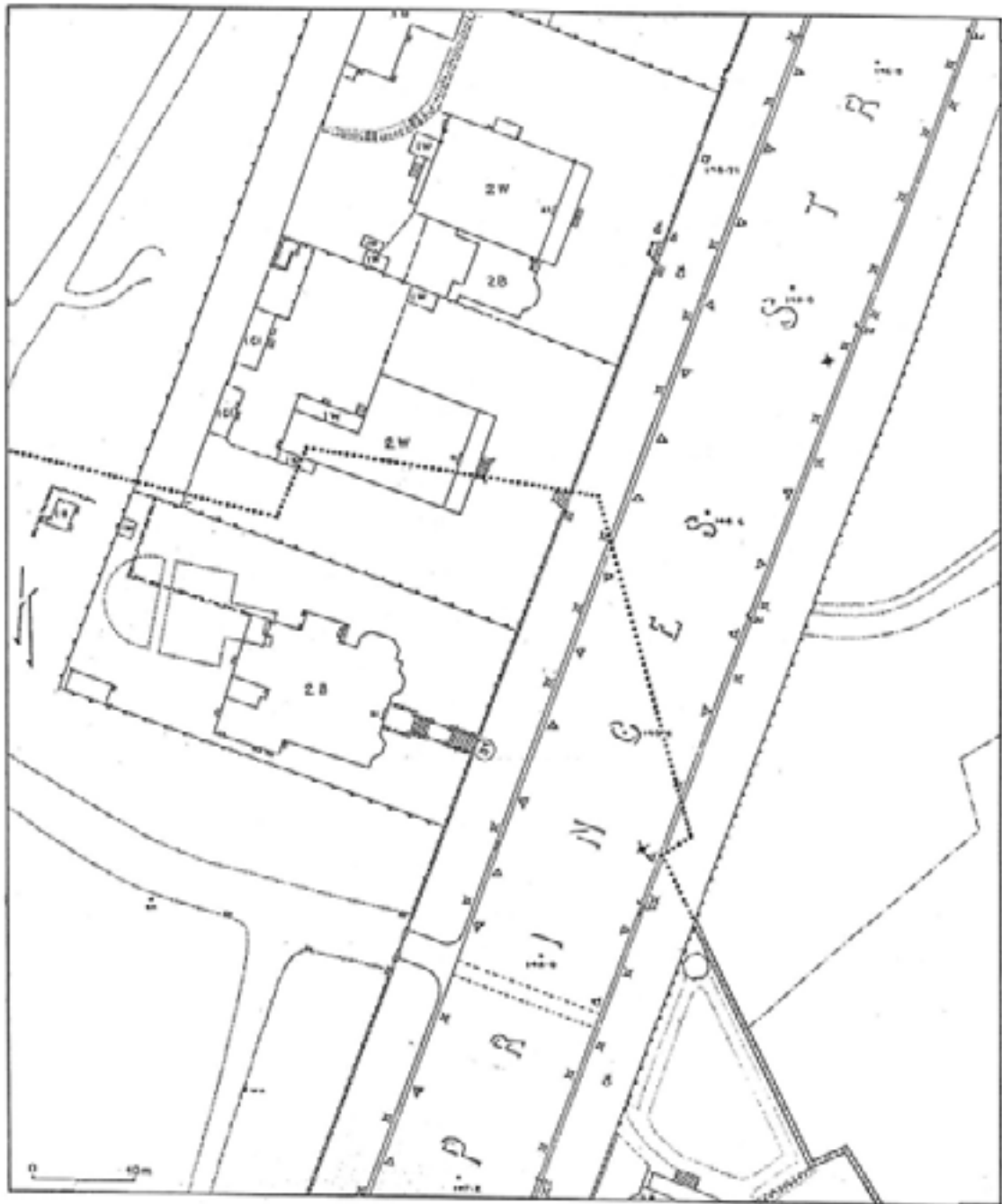


FIG. 11. Princes Street west with Guardhouse overlay - 1908.

The Excavation

Although the test excavation was confined in extent to a relatively small area directly behind 31 Princes Street (Plate 16), three periods of occupation were identified. Each produced different kinds structural evidence which are discussed separately. Only a small number of artefacts were recovered from the site. Analysis of this material has not been completed.

Stratigraphy

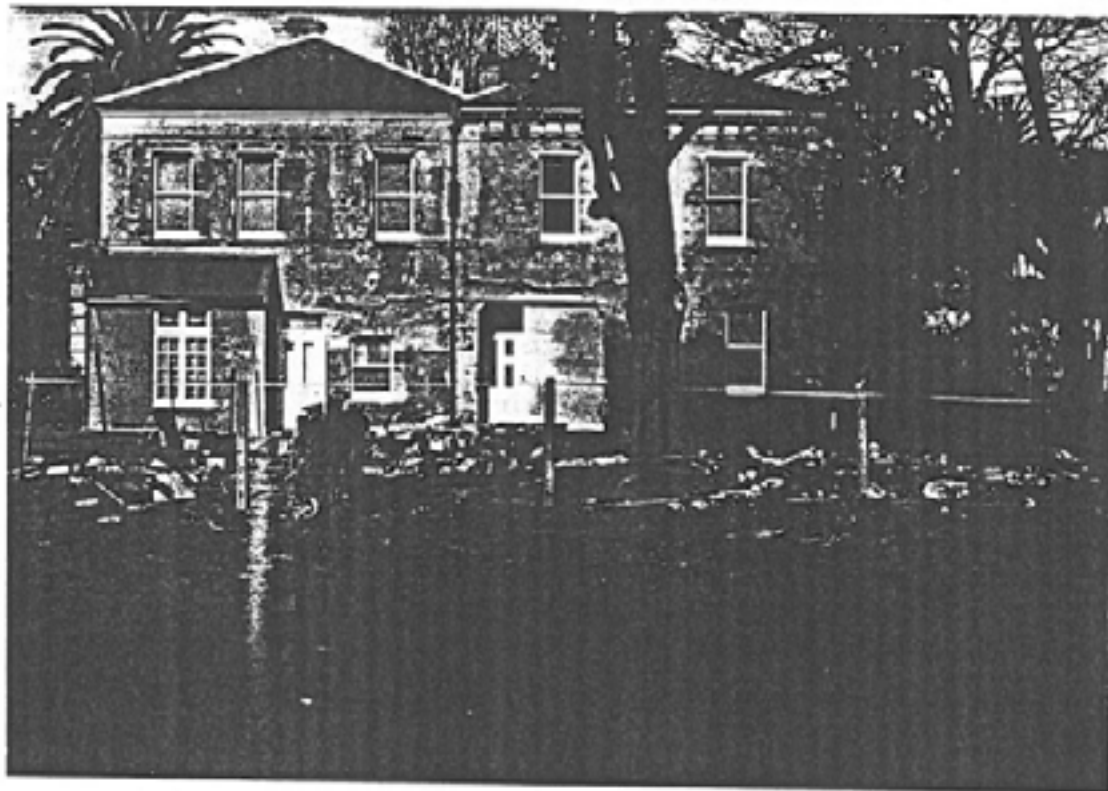
The stratigraphy of the site was simple. Three layers were apparent and are described below.

Layer 1a: Turf and topsoil. This was a dark brown soil between 50 and 100 mm in depth. The layer contained the odd piece of European material particularly broken glass and fragmented slate. On the southern half of the site this layer was either mixed with layer 1b or absent.

Layer 1b: This mixed layer was similar in colour to Layer 1a, but contained some subsoil. Charcoal, whole and crushed shell, broken brick, slate, mortar, glass, china and animal bone were present. The layer varied in thickness ranging between 200-250 mm.

Layer 2: Subsoil. A reddish to yellow/brown volcanic subsoil. The division between Layer 1b and subsoil was quite distinct.

PLATE 16. Site R11/833 - looking east, rear of 31 Princes Street.



Excavation Results

A number of different structural features were excavated. These are shown on Fig. 12, and relate to three defined periods of activity.

Period 1 Features 1-13

Ten postholes (1-10) were discovered underneath Layer I (Plates 17 and 18). They ranged in size from one small posthole (8) 110 mm in diameter and 170 mm deep to substantial ones up to 500 mm in diameter and 280 mm deep. Fill in the postholes consisted of dark brown soil mixed with yellowish/brown subsoil, some nails, pieces of wood, broken brick, basalt rocks, and shell.

The arrangement of postholes suggests a correlation between location, size and depth, that allows for identification with the former Guardhouse structure. Posthole 5 was cut into the smaller number 6 and may indicate repositioning of a pile or renewal of an original pile. There were no other intercutting postholes. Posthole 7 is outside the west wall line, but follows the direct north-south posthole line. The excavation was extended to see whether further postholes were present. None were found, and the function of number 7 remained unknown.

A substantial structure feature (11) measuring 560 mm x 470 mm to the extent excavated was filled with a mixture of soil, whole and broken brick, mortar and glass. It was dug from Layer 1b at a depth of 230 mm into this layer, to a depth of 300 mm into the subsoil. The sides were sharply defined and vertical. Although not fully determined in extent, the size and location of the feature would appear

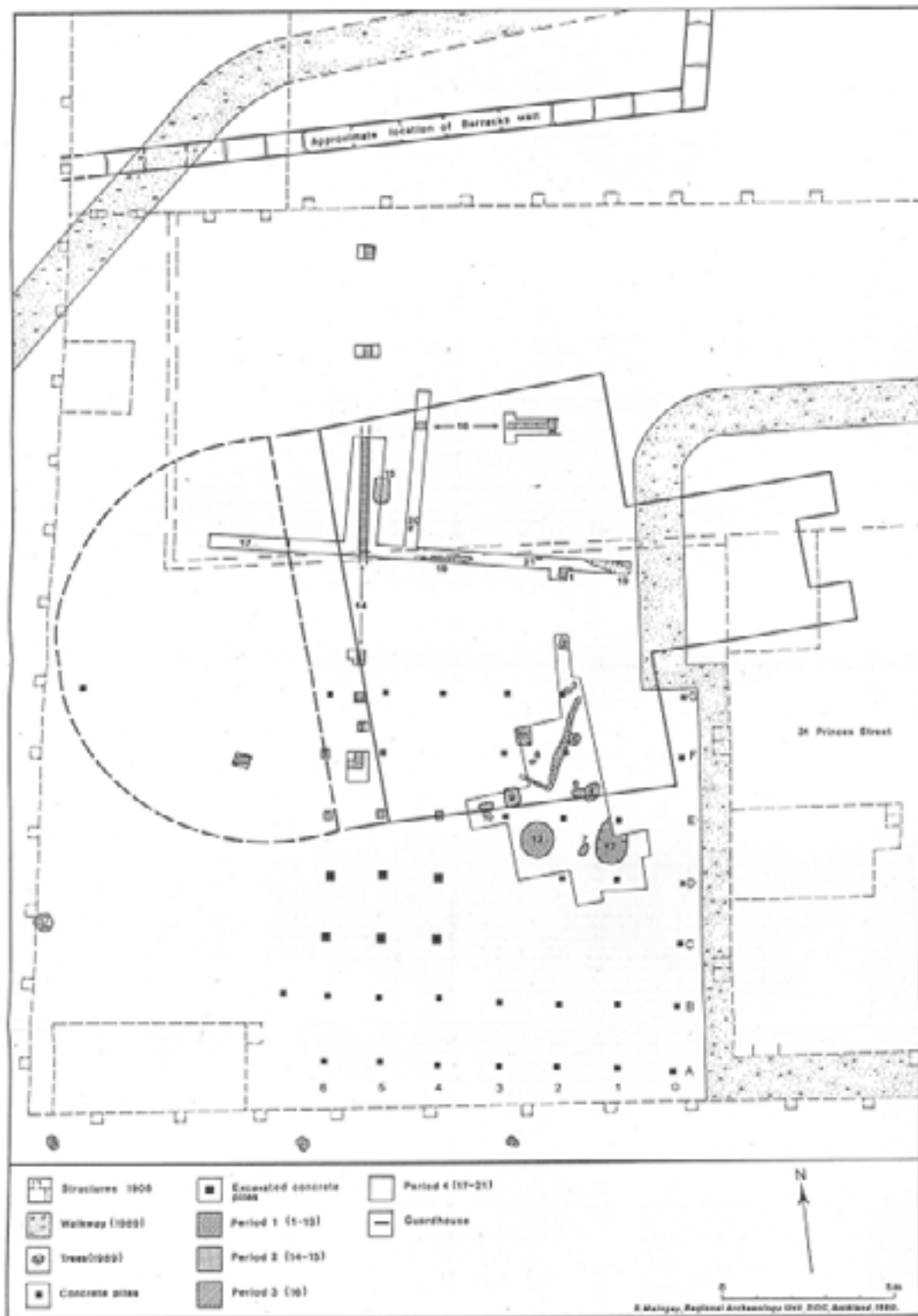


FIG. 12. R11/833 - plan of excavation: all features.

PLATE 17. Site R11/833 -excavation: postholes forming south wall of the Guardhouse; 'barrel' depression; chimney foundation.

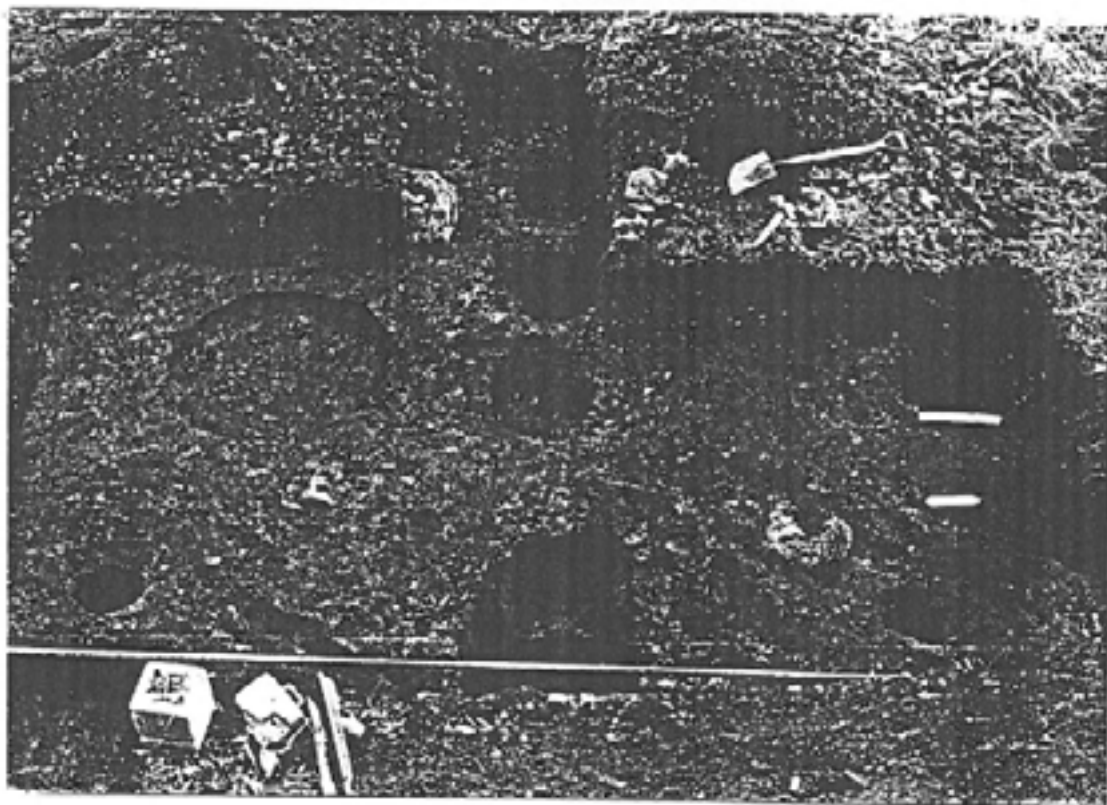
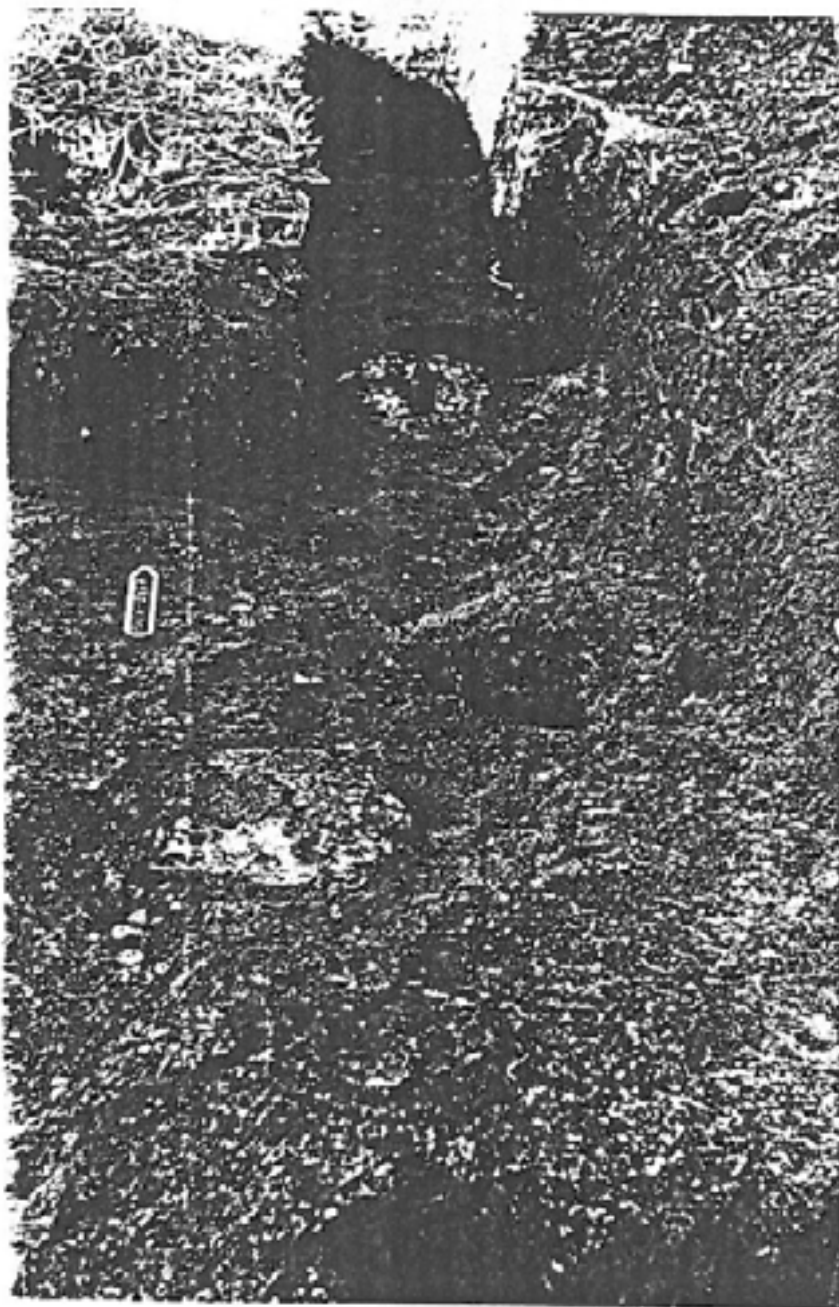


PLATE 18. Site R11/833 - excavation: north-south posthole line.



to relate to the single chimney of the Guardhouse. This is clearly seen on Plate 8.

Feature 12 was an irregular depression approximately 150 - 200 mm deep, with a high proportion of broken glass, brick fragments, pieces of ceramic material and animal bone. The full extent of this feature could not be determined because of the amount of overlying rubble between the eastern edge of the excavation and the concrete path. The position of the feature indicates that it falls outside the location of the Guardhouse.

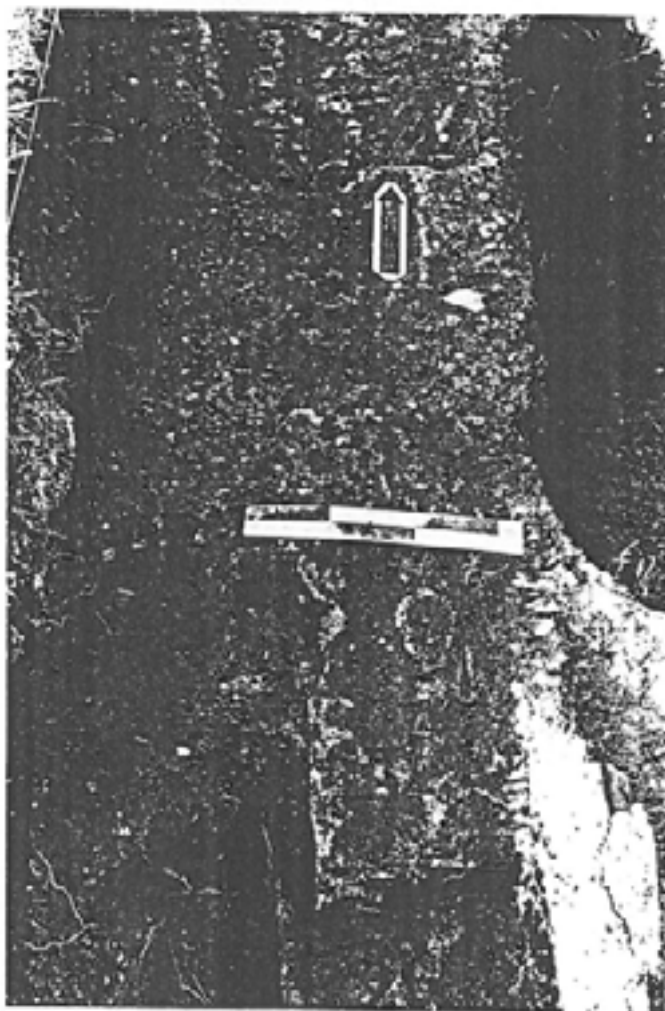
Excavation of a round shallow feature (13) measuring 990 x 990 mm in diameter and 80 mm in depth was interesting. The symmetrical shape and dimension are consistent with the impression left by the placement of a heavy wooden 'barrel' (Plate 18). Water containers were known to be placed in strategic positions throughout the Barracks, particularly in areas where there were no wells. These served primarily as a source of fresh drinking water and secondly for use in case of fire (Lennard 1966:4).

The drain-like feature shown within this general area was thought to be an animal burrow.

Period 2 Feature 14

In Trench C a brick foundation running north-south was excavated. The foundation was 320 mm wide and two bricks in depth (Plate 19), with a bedding trench approximately in depth along each side of the foundation and filled with fine scoria and water worn pebbles. It was thought likely

PLATE 19. R11/833 - brick foundation.



that this structure related to the long corrugated iron building illustrated on the 1882 map (Fig. 8). This was confirmed by probing and test pitting to find the south end of the structure. The foundation continued north onto the adjoining section.

Feature 15 was a small pit, situated close to the long brick foundation. It was approximately 750 mm long x 450 mm wide. The fill (250 mm deep) consisted of a soft dark brown soil with numerous items of European origin. Whole bottles, broken china, a large broken ceramic pipe, a rusted matchbox, animal bone and pieces of coral were recovered. The nature and concentration of the material suggests that the function of this feature was a small rubbish pit. Its location and depth suggest an association with activities after the construction of 31 Princes Street.

Period 3 Feature 16

This feature was first uncovered in Trench B. A subsidiary trench dug to the east confirmed the existence of modern concrete blocks measuring 400 x 200 mm and 180 mm in depth (Plate 20). These blocks formed part of the foundations around the north prefabricated building erected by the University of Auckland.

Additional Features

A number of other features were excavated that could not definitely be assigned to any of the three periods identified above. In the western end of Trench A (Feature 17) a compact layer 100-200 mm in depth and 1.35 m in length was found.

PLATE 20. Site R11/833 - modern concrete block foundations.



The layer, lying under approximately 100 - 150 mm of topsoil was dark brown in colour with a distinct surface of crushed brick and pieces of mortar. Fill of a

similar nature though softer and without the brick and mortar continued east along the length of Trench A.

Two shallow long depressions were also found in Trench A. The first (Feature 18) may be related to the hedge that can be identified on the 1908 map. The function of the depression at the eastern end of Trench A (Feature 19) was not determined.

Two isolated postholes were present in Trenches A and B. The first (Feature 20) was dug into the subsoil to a depth of 530 mm. It was rectangular in shape measuring 170 mm x 100 mm. The fill was composed of yellow/brown soil, brick fragments, mortar and broken window glass. The second posthole (Feature 21) was smaller in dimension and approximately 160 mm deep.

Discussion

Although the total area excavated was small (in keeping with the investigation proposal) the information return was high.

Various structural features recorded were clearly associated with the former Guardhouse. The line of postholes running east-west was interpreted as the south wall of the structure. This interpretation was strengthened by the location of a circular depression (Feature 13) assumed to be left after the removal of a water barrel.

The remaining structural features included the foundations for a long building at the rear of the property (most likely to be stables), and the modern foundations for the north prefabricated building. Several other archaeological features could not be directly related to any set period of activity. Initially, it was thought that the

extent, nature and depth of material that formed the hard layer of Feature 17 was associated with activities other than the Guardhouse period. This, however, could not be confirmed. An alternative explanation may be provided. The area outside the front of the Guardhouse, is shown on the plan (Fig. 3) as a line of dots arranged in a half circle. The function of this 'enclosure' is unknown, but it may have been used as a small parade area. The deposition of material to form a level area with a hard compacted surface could be expected if this was the case. Obviously it would be desirable to further investigate Feature 17. This could be done with minimal disturbance during the Stage 2 phase of the presentation programme.

The erection of a fence in the backyard (Plate 15) in the 1930s may provide an explanation for the rectangular posthole described as Feature 20. However, no further postholes were located to substantiate this.

Removal of the Concrete Piles

Lifting of the concrete piles presented problems. Because of this, a full report on the method and results has been included. From this information the value of an exercise that required a minimum level of subsurface disturbance can be assessed.

Method

The position of the concrete piles for removal at the rear of Pembridge is marked on Fig. 12. Individual piles were identified for ease of recording in the following manner. East-west rows were labelled A-G beginning with the first row 1 metre from the southern boundary of the property. North-south rows were numbered 0-7.

Removal of the piles was intended to be by hand, in order to ensure minimum disturbance to surface and subsurface soil horizons. Parks' staff were asked initially to remove two or three piles from outside the area where it thought subsurface evidence for the Guardhouse would be present. By removing these piles first, it would give some indication as to the difficulties that may arise during removal. The lifting of the two piles proved to be somewhat more difficult than expected.

Each concrete pile measuring 20 x 20 cm was sitting on a concrete footing at a depth of 65 cm from the ground surface. To facilitate removal and to allow for minimal disturbance, only a small amount of material was loosened and dug out from around the pile. Force was exerted on the pile from side to side to free it before being levered up with a crow bar and lifted out. The concrete footing being larger in dimension than the actual pile tended to rip and break both the sides and base of the original pile hole. When all faces were cleaned down, it was apparent that the rocking motion to free the pile had disturbed the surrounding soil layers to the extent that material collapsed inwards making examination of stratigraphy difficult. To further complicate matters, the weight of the concrete was such that Parks' staff had to resort to using a small tractor to pull the next pile out.

Unfortunately during the course of demolition of the buildings many piles had broken off at surface level. A trial run at lifting an embedded stump created so much soil disturbance that further removal of broken piles was abandoned.

Despite these problems it was decided to continue removing piles with as much care as possible, concentrating on the assumed position of the southern and

western walls of the Guardhouse.

Results are presented in Table 1.

Discussion

Although examination of test holes generally serves well in identifying occupational remains, there are a number of limiting factors that affect conclusions. Often the extent of an archaeological feature revealed in the stratigraphy cannot be precisely measured or identified. This is because the feature may have been cut through when the test hole was dug, either revealing a small segment, or destroying a major portion of it.

Another problem the spacing of the pile holes. These have been fixed by the requirements of the overlying building, and although reasonably closely spaced there is a high probability that archaeological features will be missed.

Obviously conclusions based solely on the examination of features revealed in the test holes are limited. However, some comment is possible. The documented history of this particular area provided reasonable assurance that apart from the modern prefabricated buildings, the only other structural evidence that should have been present was that associated with Albert Barracks.

Of the ten pile holes in which clear examination of stratigraphy was possible, seven displayed archaeological features. The depth of topsoil and overburden in each hole varied slightly but generally ranged between 250-270 mm in depth. The composition of material consisted of a dark brown topsoil, overlying a dark, soft soil mixed with shell, charcoal, bits of brick, burnt fragments of wood, pieces shattered window glass, and small basalt cobbles. The volcanic subsoil was

Table 1

FEATURES RECORDED IN PILE HOLES SITE R11/833

<u>Co-ordinate Nos.</u>	<u>Description</u>
C4	East face extending round into south face where it slopes upwards to south-west corner of hole. Fill consists of dark soil, shell, scoria and a few basalt cobbles. Width at base 28 cm. Bottom not reached. Possible posthole.
C5	Definite posthole NW corner, 150 mm wide at the top, 100 mm wide at the base. Total depth 330 mm.
C6	No features.
D4	No features.
D5	No features - subsoil begins 250 mm below present surface.
D6	Posthole east face 320 mm wide extending to a depth of 550 mm from ground surface. Bottom not reached. Fill mixture of black/brown soil, burnt wood, metal and shell.
E4	Shallow scoop feature 150-160 mm in depth. Fill mixture of dark brown charcoal, broken brick and shell.
E5	Large quantity of broken brick underlying topsoil extending from NE corner of pile hole across east face and 200 mm into south face. Full extent 430 mm wide. Feature is 800 mm in total depth - 280 mm into subsoil.
E6	Possible posthole extending across east and south face. Fill includes band of charcoal 500 mm from surface of pile hole - this is mixed with shell under topsoil/subsoil layer.
F6	Large deep posthole visible - extends 350 mm into subsoil. Total depth from surface 1 m. Fill dark soft soil mixed with shell - scallop, winkle and one fish bone. Diameter 320 mm.

distinctive – yellow/brown in colour, with a firm to hard consistency. Features cut into the subsoil were easily seen.

Turning to the individual pile holes, in C6, D4 and D5 no archaeological structural evidence was visible. The fill material lay over an undisturbed subsoil horizon. Five features interpreted as postholes were recorded in the walls of C4, C5, D6, E6 and F6. They ranged in visible width from 150 mm to 320 mm. Only one, E6, was excavated to a subsoil base, which was reached at a depth of 1 m from the surface. All posthole features extended into the subsoil and attempts were made to establish depth. However, the confined space to work within made excavation difficult and visibility was continually obscured by material collapsing downwards and inwards. An additional difficulty was experienced in establishing the depth at which these postholes began. The loose, disturbed nature of the material overlying the subsoil tended to conceal lines that would indicate at what level postholes were initially dug.

Two further features were present in E4 and E5. In the north face of a shallow scoop feature extended 150 mm into the subsoil. The fill consisted of dark soil, shell fragments, charcoal and fragments of brick. The function was unknown.

A more substantial feature was seen in E5. Fill of broken brick and soil extended from the north-east corner across the east face and around to the south face. This material continued to a depth of 280 mm into the subsoil. The total depth of the feature from the surface was 530 mm. By checking the assumed position of the guardhouse on the plan (Fig. 13) it could be seen that the location of E5 approximates the south-west corner of the building. If this was the case, the corner would need a solid foundation at this point to carry the load bearing

requirements of the building. The size of the feature though not firmly established, may indicate this function. The presence of broken brick was unlikely to be associated with the Guardhouse foundations. This material was probably directly related to the demolition of the chimney.

The question remains as to whether any firm conclusion could be drawn from the archaeological evidence found in the pile holes. Returning to the plan showing the estimated position of the Guardhouse, five pile holes D6, E4, E5, E6 and F6 are certainly close enough to the building to assume some connection. The remaining two holes C4 and C5, while displaying definite archaeological features are outside the assumed line of the south wall. of the Guardhouse. This raises the possibility that the estimated position of the building was incorrect. However, the structural features revealed by the test excavation appeared to correlate with the placement the Guardhouse. A more reasonable explanation for the archaeological features observed in C4 and C5 is that they were associated with other site activities for which there is no written record.

The above exercise demonstrated that drawing firm conclusions based solely on the examination of features found in the pile holes, was both difficult and frustrating. With the final shape and extent of features remaining an unknown factor, only limited interpretation was possible. Despite this, when combined with the evidence from the test excavation, a fair assumption can be made that in four cases (E4, E5, E6 and F6) the features observed and recorded were structurally related to the Guardhouse.

CONCLUSION

Albert Barracks was Auckland's largest and longest standing early defensive installation. Surrounded a massive stone perimeter wall it was highly visible and very impressive. Long a focus for both military and social activities, the demolition of the Barracks was met with much public comment and concern. Central to these concerns was the eventual disposal of the land on which the Barracks sat. The ensuing furore did not die down until the issue was resolved and a proportion of land set aside as a Public Park.

A little known fact to emerge during the course of research, was the intention in 1873 to preserve the North gate. Unfortunately this did not eventuate and gradually all evidence for the former Barracks and wall (with the exception of a small section of wall remaining in the University of Auckland grounds) disappeared.

In 1988, a public presentation programme was designed in conjunction with the Auckland City Council, which will eventually redress in part the original 1873 intention. The aim of this project was to locate, and appropriately mark, a section of the Barracks wall, the main entrance, and part of the Guardhouse. The area where this will take place is at the north end of Albert Park, behind 31 Princes Street.

An historical and archaeological investigation has been undertaken to complete the first stage of this presentation project. A review of the construction and demolition Barracks was followed by research into the origins and development of Albert Park. From this written record a general history of the site was constructed.

Written references to individual buildings within the Barracks is limited. The position and size of the Guardhouse standing inside the northern gate was known only from a small scale drawing recorded by Frissell in 1871 (Fig. 3).

Confirmation was provided after a prodigious search located a panorama photograph taken from Partington's Mill around 1869-70 (Plate 7), showing this small building standing by the north wall. No indication was given on Frissell's plan to show the materials used. However, it would appear that the building was constructed of wood, with a verandah at the front and a single chimney. This photograph therefore provided some clue as to the type of foundations.

A study of the early maps, plans and photographs gave an indication of later structures that were built in the vicinity of the area where the Guardhouse had been. To fix the position of the former Guardhouse as accurately as possible, the configuration shown of the 1871 Frissell plan was transferred to the street survey plan of 1908.

The development of Albert Park was traced through primary documents and photographs. No evidence was found that indicated major upheavals at the north end of the park or in the backyard of 31 Princes Street.

It was obviously an advantage to have access to good archival material. However, documentation provides only part of the evidence for a site's history. The archaeological investigation complimented the written record by demonstrating that structural remains associated with the Guardhouse were present in the location as fixed by the historic research. In addition, some features were recorded for which there was no historic account. A depression left by what was interpreted as a large water barrel allowed for a fair assumption to be made that the line of postholes adjacent to the barrels (Fig. 12) formed the south wall of the Guardhouse. The subsequent correlation of the excavation plan and Guardhouse overlay confirmed this point.

Two other features recorded when the concrete piles were removed could not be identified either historically or archaeologically. This was because of the rather limited nature of information available through examination of the pile holes.

The documentary, photographic and archaeological evidence presented in this report has been used to complete the first stage of the full presentation project. From this study it is evident that the historic record and the archaeological are the results of different processes of collection and dissolution. Although the match will never be identical, each adds to a fuller understanding of the site and its history. In respect of this project, with a little help from archaeology, perhaps we can now say that 'Bluestone and Bureaucracy' have finally met.

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APL 1036 Looking north-east from Partington's Mill (early 1870s).

APL 1282 The entrance gates of the Albert Barracks (1860s).

APL 2692 Looking north-east from Partington's Mill (1875)

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APPENDICES

1. Auckland Military Reserves Act 1871.
2. Auckland Improvement (Albert Barracks Reserves) Act 1872
3. Certificate of Title - 31 Princes St.

The appendices for Science and Research No. 65 are not currently available in electronic form.

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