

AUCKLAND CITY HERITAGE WALKS



DOWNTOWN, MIDTOWN, UPTOWN



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THESE TRAILS WILL EACH TAKE APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR AND A HALF TO WALK. MAIN FEATURES OF THESE WALKS INCLUDE:

DOWNTOWN: Auckland's historic waterfront, the original foreshore, key places, people and uses associated with the harbour, wharves and port and developments in public transport.

MIDTOWN: Some of Auckland's earliest commercial buildings, the earliest street network in the city and a compact snapshot of historical and architectural development in Auckland from the Colonial period through to the twenty-first century.

UPTOWN: The entertainment, cultural, civic and retail hub of Central Auckland including outstanding theatres, the Auckland Art Gallery and Town Hall.

These areas include a significant number of buildings and elements that are registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust or scheduled in the Auckland City Council's District Plan as being of heritage value.

Items that are registered or scheduled are identified within this brochure using the following key:

AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT PLAN

SCHEDULED IN CATEGORY A:

A

Buildings, objects and places of outstanding natural beauty, or architectural, scientific or historical significance well beyond their immediate environs. Demolition of a Category A Item is a prohibited activity.

SCHEDULED IN CATEGORY B:

B

Buildings, objects or places of such quality and character that they should not be removed, damaged or altered significantly.

NEW ZEALAND HISTORIC PLACES TRUST

REGISTERED IN CATEGORY I:

I

Places of special or outstanding historical or cultural heritage value.

REGISTERED IN CATEGORY II :

II

Places of historical or cultural heritage value.

These heritage walks have been developed collaboratively by Auckland City Council, Heart of Auckland City, New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Tourism Auckland. Maori history has been prepared by Ngati Whatua o Orakei. Historic research by Susan Yoffe and Tania Mace. Co-ordinated by Matthews & Matthews Architects Ltd. Cover photograph: Rees Osborne.

AUCKLAND CITY

HERITAGE WALKS DOWNTOWN

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 Former Chief Post Office/
Britomart Transport Centre | Company Building |
| 2 Ender's Building | 7 Britomart Precinct |
| 3 Ahi Kā Sculpture | 8 Buckland Building |
| 4 Ferry Building and Harbour Board
Railings, Gates and Lamps | 9 Masonic Building |
| 5 Maritime Building | 10 Stanbeth House |
| 6 Northern Steamship | 11 Excelsior House |
| | 12 Levy Building |
| | 13 Former Sofrana House |



- 14 Barrington Building
- 15 Old Customhouse
- 16 Dilworth Building
- 17 Queen's Arcade
- 18 Emcom House
- 19 Dingwall Building
- 20 Guardian Trust Building
- 21 Horotiu Stream

- 22 Fort Street Area, Te One Panea
- 23 Imperial Hotel
- 24 Wright's Building
- 25 Jean Batten Place/
Former Jean Batten Post Office



View towards the harbour from upper Hobson Street in the 1850s. Drawn by PJ Hogan it shows the North Shore and Rangitoto in the distance beyond the developing town of Auckland.

COPY OF STANDIDGE AND CO. LITHOGRAPH, PRINT HELD AT ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY.



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY AUCKLAND



1886 GT Stevens Perspective/Birds eye view of the City of Auckland.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, C49



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY AUCKLAND→



The narrow Auckland isthmus, located between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea, was well known to the great Polynesian navigators who settled Aotearoa (New Zealand) a thousand years ago.

Tāmaki Herenga Waka – ‘Tāmaki – the Destination of Voyagers’ is an ancient name for the Auckland Isthmus. Waka (canoes) arriving from the Pacific Islands with new seed stocks and migrants sought the narrowest part of the isthmus at Otāhuhu in south Auckland, with its 800m portage between our two great oceans. Later voyagers found Tāmaki heavily populated. Some married into local communities while others continued south in search of new lands. With excellent gardening soils, fish stocks and natural fortifications – the volcanic cones – Tāmaki became and still is today, the centre of the largest Maori civilisation in the world.

Through Hua Kaiwaka’s leadership the various tribes of the Tāmaki Isthmus were united under the confederation known as Te Waiohūa. Under his reign, Tāmaki saw an unprecedented period of peace and prosperity that led to sayings such as : ‘Te pai me te whai rawa o Tamaki’; ‘The wealth and luxury of Tamaki’.

View from Britomart Barrack in the 1850s showing Commercial Bay;
Part of Lower Queen Street, with the new wharf.

COPY OF STANDIDGE AND CO. LITHOGRAPH, PRINT HELD AT ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY.



Ngati Whatua, provoked into attack by Te Waiohuria in the mid seventeenth century, took control of the Isthmus through peace marriages and occupation of the volcanic fortresses. However, peace would be interrupted again two generations later as the local tribes were displaced during the inter-tribal 'Musket Wars' that engulfed the country from 1820 to 1840.

In September 1840 Ngati Whatua leader Te Kawau gifted 3000 acres of land to Governor Hobson on behalf of the crown. The central commercial district of modern Auckland was included in this gift that established the city. Te Kawau sought military protection, new medicines and trade to bring peace and prosperity to his people. Within 20 years he had lost nearly all his land and was shut out of city administration and governance. Despite this, his descendants have today recovered much of their valuable land in central Auckland and are significant contributors to the local economy and cultural life of the city.

The first group of settlers and government officials travelled from Russell in the Bay of Islands to Auckland on the Anna Watson in late September 1840. Auckland was chosen as the capital of New Zealand because, like Maori before them, the colonial government recognised its strategic location with access to the Waitemata, Manukau and Kaipara Harbours and to the interior of the North Island by way of the Waikato River. It remained the capital until 1865 when the function was transferred to Wellington.

From the outset, Commercial Bay at the base of Queen Street was the commercial centre of the settlement. In 1841 Surveyor General, Felton Mathew, drew up a plan for the new city. His starting point was the Waihorotiu Stream, later dubbed the "Ligar Canal", which ran down present-day Queen Street into Commercial Bay. Though parts of the plan were later abandoned, Mathew's design provides the layout for many of the city's main streets and the reclamations of Freemans Bay, Commercial Bay and Mechanics Bay.

By 1844 Queen, Princes and Shortland streets were formed and metalled. The government centre developed around the Princes Street area where soon were located Government House, the parliament, the court and the barracks for the British 58th Regiment as well as the substantial homes of many of Auckland's leading citizens. Shortland Street, which linked Commercial Bay with the government centre, became the first and most developed commercial thoroughfare in the city.

Auckland grew rapidly. By 1841 the population was 2000, made up of settlers relocating from the Bay of Islands, immigrants from Australia and Great Britain, and Maori. Religious orders also made Auckland their base with large land holdings being established by the Roman Catholic Church in Freemans Bay and the Church of England in Parnell. The early commercial life of the settlement was based on gum, timber, flax, and fat stock farming and re-exporting to other settlements.

SHORTLAND STREET



VULCAN LANE

While initial development focussed on Commercial Bay at the bottom of Queen Street, by 1864 the limits of Auckland were Parnell in the east and Freemans Bay in the west. During the 1860s, after the drainage and health problems caused by the Ligar Canal had been resolved, Queen Street began to progressively overtake Shortland Street as the predominant commercial strip. Substantial reclamation of the Waitemata Harbour was carried out during the 1860s and 1870s and continued throughout the 1880s. Auckland soon became the major port in northern New Zealand and a chief port of call for the Pacific.

During the 1870s and 1880s there was a great surge in immigration. The population expanded from 7000 in 1861 to 33,000 in 1886. This led to great commercial expansion and the building of more substantial masonry buildings of two and three storeys. In this period the art gallery and library, the hospital and many churches, hotels and commercial buildings were constructed.

Progressive periods of redevelopment reinforced Queen Street as the commercial, retail, transportation and entertainment hub of Auckland. After the 1920s the mixture of residential, warehousing and industrial uses in the inner city were steadily replaced by commercial uses. Recent development in the central area has seen a more vibrant mixture of residential and commercial uses occur. A growing interest in the history of the city has led to the retention of many of Auckland's significant heritage buildings.

Street elevations of buildings in Queen Street, in Bretts Auckland Almanac, 1887.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 336





DOWNTOWN WALK

THE WATERFRONT AREA OF THE FLEDGLING SETTLEMENT OF AUCKLAND WAS **MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH IS SEEN TODAY.**

Initially Fore Street (now Fort Street) ran along the beach. By 1870 the shoreline had been changed with the reclamation of Commercial Bay reaching as far as Customs Street East and the formation of Quay Street in the 1880s.

Auckland's newest land was close to crucial means of transport. Not only was it on the doorstep of the wharves but soon the new railway station would be at its hub and the heart of the country's largest commercial centre was just a stones throw away.

The extensive development of wharves and surrounding coastal land during the 1870s and 1880s helped Auckland become the country's re-export trading capital.

[Looking down over Commercial Bay in the 1860s, towards Queens Wharf. Fort Street is on the waterfront.](#)

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 48993





Looking along Queens Wharf towards Queen Street in 1904.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY. W1090

The 1870s investment boom encouraged the growth of Auckland's industries. Merchants and factory owners alike saw the advantages of land close to the port of Auckland. From the 1880s the area bounded by Customs, Queen, Quay and Breakwater Streets was developed with warehouses, factories, shipping offices and a 24-hour flour mill. The city's most prominent businesses were well represented in the area.

The depression of the late 1880s and 1890s halted further development for a number of years, but the first decade of the twentieth century witnessed a flurry of building activity in the downtown area.

No doubt, the promise of further harbour improvements spurred on local businesses. In 1899 the Auckland Harbour Board adopted a plan to extend the wharf facilities. Work on Queens Wharf began in 1907 and in 1912 the northern side of Quay Street was adorned with the new Ferry Building. Further improvements were made over the following years.

The eastern ends of Customs and Quay Streets had become the favoured location of warehousing and shipping enterprises. It was a bustling, noisy place with trains entering and exiting the railway station and goods making their way to and from the ships, trains and warehouses in the area. In 1912 railway tracks were installed in Quay Street to connect the railway station with the wharves. Trains would travel the street alongside other vehicles for more than 60 years to come.

Today the downtown area to the east of Queen Street stands in stark contrast to the area to the west. While the western side was extensively redeveloped in the 1960s and 70s the eastern side has retained much of its late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture.

BEGIN ON QUEEN STREET UNDER THE GLASS CANOPY OPPOSITE THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE BRITOMART TRANSPORT CENTRE.

1.



The CPO in 1915. The arched entrances to each side provided access to the railway station behind.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1-W1325.

1. FORMER CHIEF POST OFFICE/BRITOMART TRANSPORT CENTRE 12 QUEEN STREET **A** **I**

Work on this impressive Chief Post Office (CPO) building began in 1910 with Christchurch firm J. & W. Jamieson being the chief contractors. It was designed by the government architect John Campbell. On 20 November 1912 the building was opened by the Prime Minister William Massey watched by a crowd of more than eight thousand.

Over the years generations of Aucklanders visited the building to post mail, collect pensions and ration books, pay taxes, and obtain car and radio licences. The CPO also served as a savings bank, insurance office and the central telephone exchange for decades.

The CPO was closed in 1992 and was recently restored and reborn as the entrance to the Britomart station, Auckland's central transport centre.

Walk a few metres north along Queen Street to the corner of Queen and Quay Streets.

2. AHI KĀ QUEEN ELIZABETH II SQUARE

With the support of Auckland City and Trethewey Granite and Marble, this elegantly carved basalt boulder was installed by Ngati Whatua artisans as part of the refurbishment of the Britomart complex and QE2 Square in 2003. Ngati Whatua are the Tangata Whenua (people of the land) of Auckland. The artwork represents mana (tribal authority) and recognises Ngati Whatua's ahi kā status (enduring 'fires of occupation') and their responsibility as the host tribe to care for visitors and the environment.



2.

3.



3. ENDEAN'S BUILDING 2 QUEEN STREET II

Endeans Building, to the left of the CPO, was completed in 1915, and designed by architects Chilwell & Trevithick. It originally included nine shops and ninety offices for lease.

The original owner, John Endeans, had made his money through goldmining in Australia, North America and New Zealand before settling in Auckland where he ran the Waitemata Hotel and speculated in mining. His wife Ellen was a shrewd investor in her own right and involved herself in politics, becoming the first woman to stand for election to the Auckland City Council in 1894.

4.



The Ferry Building on Auckland's waterfront in 1923.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1-W614.

4. FERRY BUILDING AND HARBOUR BOARD RAILINGS, GATES AND LAMPS

99 QUAY STREET **A** **I**

Completed in 1912 on its prominent harbour edge site, the Ferry Building was erected by the Auckland Harbour Board as part of a wider improvement programme for the dock area. It was designed by architect Alexander Wiseman in the Imperial Baroque style.

The building provided office accommodation and access to the ferry wharves that gave the only speedy connection between the city and the North Shore prior to the erection of the Auckland Harbour Bridge in the 1950s. It remains a well-used facility for large numbers of ferry users, visitors and locals.

To the east of the Ferry Building are red railings and gates closing off the port area from the street. The gates, which were imported from Britain, display the Auckland Harbour Board monogram on a shield and the piers feature lamps resting on four winds figureheads. The railings, gates and lamps were progressively installed in several contracts between 1912 and 1925. In 1951 this barrier separated the watersiders from strikebreakers during one of New Zealand's most significant industrial disputes.

Walk east along Quay Street to the corner of Quay and Gore Streets

5. MARITIME BUILDING 130 QUAY STREET

Originally the site of a workshop building occupied by a firm of engineers, this site was redeveloped in the mid 1940s by the New Zealand Shipping Company. It was designed by architect B.C. Chilwell of the firm Chilwell & Trevithick. The façade was modified in 1953 and a third floor was added in the 1970s. The building retained its links with the shipping industry for most of its life, becoming the premises of Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), and then later the Union Steamship Company.

Walk across to the east side of Gore Street.

6. NORTHERN STEAMSHIP COMPANY BUILDING 122-124 QUAY STREET **B** **I**

This building was officially opened in 1899 when steamships played a major role in trade and passenger transport in New Zealand. It was built for leading Auckland firm the Northern Steamship Company which traded extensively in the transport of timber, gum, farm produce and passengers, gradually extending their services throughout the country. A third storey was added to the building during the prosperous 1920s. Competition from road and rail transport eventually led to the demise of the company which ceased trading in the 1970s.

6.



7. BRITOMART PRECINCT

The central area flanked by the buildings on Customs Street East, Lower Queen Street, Quay Street and Britomart Place has long been associated with public transport. It was the site of the central railway station from 1885 to 1930 before serving as the central bus station for the city. During the 1990s various redevelopment schemes for this area were considered. The Britomart project, as it became known, was modified after widespread public opposition to the proposed destruction of the heritage buildings on the site.

Today, the Britomart area is the terminal station for both rail and bus transport in the city with the underground train station located beneath this central piece of land. A vibrant and varied range of uses are proposed for the surrounding heritage buildings which will be conserved and integrated with new development.

Walk across to the east side of Gore Street.

The original Auckland Railway Station was on the site of the existing Chief Post Office.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1235.

7.



8, 9.



8. BUCKLAND BUILDING

30 CUSTOMS STREET EAST **B** **II**

This building appears almost indistinguishable from the larger Masonic building next door, with which it shares a façade. However, it was erected in the late 1890s, well over a decade after the Masonic building. By the turn of the century it was owned by Auckland publisher Henry Brett (later Sir Henry) and journalist T.W. Leys.

The partnership of Henry Brett and T.W. Leys was highly successful. By 1900 their Evening Star newspaper had the widest circulation of any newspaper in New Zealand. Both men were also heavily involved in civic and community affairs and numerous Auckland institutions have benefited from the philanthropy of the Brett and Leys families.

9. MASONIC BUILDING **B** **II**

34 CUSTOMS STREET EAST

Erected for merchant John Buchanan to house his thriving business as a wholesaler of tea, coffee, spices and groceries, the Masonic building was built in 1885. It covered two allotments and was designed by Edward Mahoney. Buchanan's business was one of the largest wholesale companies in the city but the depression of the 1880s would soon toll its demise.

10. STANBETH HOUSE

26-28 CUSTOMS STREET EAST **B** **II**

Built in 1885 for the Coupland & Co grain and produce company, this four-storey building has had a variety of tenants and in 1902 was used for the demonstration of an unusual fire escape system. The “automatic fire escape and lowering machine” consisted of a cage attached to a pulley system on the outside of the building. Several people were lowered from a top-storey window to the ground in a matter of seconds. While the demonstration was a success, the patented idea appears not to have caught on.

11.

10.



Excelsior House, on the corner of Commerce Street in 1899, housed Kempthorne Prosser & Co. Stanbeth House is on the centre right.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W106.

11. EXCELSIOR HOUSE

22 CUSTOMS STREET EAST **B** **II**

In 1897 the coffee and spice merchants Brown, Barrett & Co had this building erected to the design of Edmund Bell and named it “Excelsior” after their famous coffee brand. The company never occupied the building, preferring to move into the nearby Masonic building. Excelsior House soon became the home of J. Wiseman & Sons who established their large saddle and harness factory and warehouse. A variety of other tenants shared the premises over the coming years.

In 1935 the land on which the western end of Excelsior House stood was taken by proclamation. Half of the building was subsequently demolished to accommodate road widening to improve access to the bus station behind.

Walk down Customs Street East to the intersection of Commerce Street. Cross Commerce Street. Look over to the north side of Customs Street East.

12. LEVY BUILDING

20 CUSTOMS STREET EAST **II**

Originally built in 1897 to the design of architect Edward Bartley, this building was remodelled in an art deco style in 1934 by architects Wade & Bartley.

For much of its life the building has served as warehouse and retail space for a variety of businesses. In 1942 the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Downtown Club opened here to provide a social venue for young women and particularly servicewomen. It was an instant success, with 3000 women joining in the first month and 1000 people using the club each day. The top floor contained a games room and dance room where couples foxtrotted and jitterbugged. The attraction of the place was clear to volunteer worker Cath Lylian: 'I'm quite sure the main reason girls came was to meet young men, I think a terrific lot of marriages evolved from the Downtown Club.'

13.

12.



Sofrana House to the left and the Levy Building to the right as it looked around 1900.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W107.

13. FORMER SOFRANA HOUSE

14-18 CUSTOMS STREET EAST **B II**

The original owners of this building, British firm Hayman & Co, were so pleased with its design that they presented the architect, John Currie, with a gold watch. It was erected at the turn of the twentieth century as a warehouse and provided accommodation for the various departments of Hayman & Co including jewellery, tobacconist, crockery, drugs, musical goods, toilet requisites, stationery, saddlery and brushware.

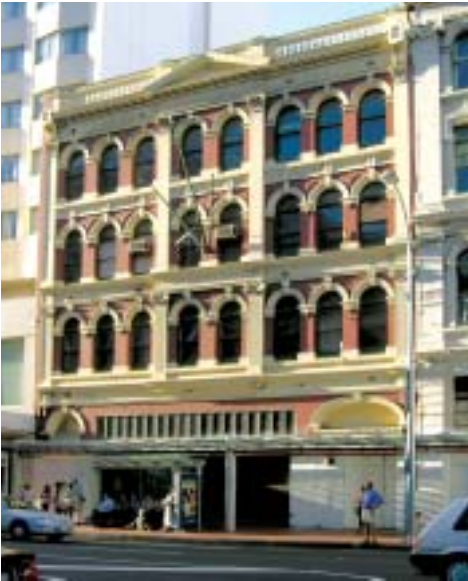
14. BARRINGTON BUILDING 10 CUSTOMS STREET EAST **B** **II**

Like its neighbour, the Barrington Building was designed by architect John Currie. It was erected in the early years of the twentieth century as the home of Gustav Kronfeld's import/export business. Born in Germany, Kronfeld travelled to Samoa as a young man and spent several years trading in the Pacific Islands. He used his connections to develop trade between Auckland and the Islands. He dealt at various times in 'Samoa & Island Curios', tinned fish, fruit and vegetables.

From the 1930s to the 1960s the building was occupied by John Bates & Co, china and crystal merchants. Passers by were tempted by impressive window displays of their fine tableware.

During the early 1970s the Barrington Gallery was opened on the first floor with an exhibition featuring Picasso engravings and works by nine local painters. The gallery exhibited work by leading New Zealand artists including Philip Clairmont, John Lethbridge, Ross Ritchie, Rob Taylor and Brent Wong.

14.



Walk along Customs Street East to the intersection of Queen Street. Cross Queen Street and continue along Customs Street West to Albert Street.

15.



The Old Auckland Customhouse in 1921.
The 1909 addition is just visible to the right.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1751.

15. OLD CUSTOMHOUSE

22 CUSTOMS STREET WEST **A** **I**

Built in the late 1880s to the design of the well-known architect Thomas Mahoney, the impressive French Renaissance customhouse was a well used public building. Located close to the wharves, it provided not only accommodation for the Customs Department but also housed the Native Land Court, Survey Department, Audit Inspector, Sheep Inspector and Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

In 1909 a substantial addition was built at the rear of the building providing another 60 rooms with office accommodation for a host of other government departments.

During the 1970s the building was vacated and faced possible demolition. A public campaign was launched to save the building and it was eventually restored and converted for use as an entertainment centre. It now houses a duty-free shopping centre.

Walk back along Customs Street West to Queen Street.

16.



Original drawing for the Dilworth Building.
AUCKLAND ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE.

16. DILWORTH BUILDING 22-32 QUEEN STREET **A** **I**

Completed in 1927, the Dilworth building was initially intended to be one of two similar buildings proudly flanking the entrance to the commercial area of Queen Street. Designed by Gummer & Ford, it was erected to provide a rental income for the benefit of a school for disadvantaged boys set up under the terms of the will of businessman and philanthropist James Dilworth. The top floor of the building was home to the Dilworth Trust office and boardroom for many decades and the building also housed the US Army headquarters during the Second World War.

17.



17. QUEEN'S ARCADE 34 QUEEN STREET **B**

Queen's Arcade is comprised of three separate buildings. The two buildings facing Queen Street, now disguised by a single façade, were built in the early 1900s. Alterations and additions carried out in 1929 created the L-shaped arcade linking Queen and Customs Streets.

The Arcade contains some of the best known and oldest retailers in the city. Marbeck Records and T. Clark's Shoes have been here since the early 1930s.

Cross to the eastern side of Queen Street and walk along Queen Street, stopping opposite Emcom House.

18.



18. EMCOM HOUSE 75 QUEEN STREET **B** **II**

Built in 1910 to the design of architect W.A. Holman, this Edwardian Baroque building was the warehouse of merchant H.M. Smeeton. Imported tea, coffee, spices, patent medicines and groceries were delivered to the warehouse before being packaged for the local market or exported to the Pacific Islands.

In 1920 the property was purchased by Winstones, the long-established firm of building supply merchants. It served as the headquarters of this growing business for half a century.

Continue along Queen Street to the corner of Fort Street. Cross to the southern side of Fort Street.

19. DINGWALL BUILDING 87-93 QUEEN STREET **B** **II**

The Dingwall Trust was established under the terms of the will of David Dingwall who died in 1927 at the age of 81. Dingwall inherited a shrewd business sense and thrifty habits from his father Alexander and had amassed a considerable fortune over his lifetime. Having no heir, Dingwall gifted much of his estate for the purpose of establishing a home for orphaned and destitute children.

The Dingwall Trust had the present building erected in 1935 to the design of leading architectural firm Gummer & Ford.



20. GUARDIAN TRUST BUILDING 105 QUEEN STREET **B** **I**

Erected during the First World War for the New Zealand Insurance Company (NZI), this was one of Auckland's first high-rise buildings. Designed by William Gummer, it replaced an earlier three-storey NZI building and features a projecting clock from this earlier building.

Formed locally in 1859 as a marine and fire insurance specialist, NZI grew to have branches throughout the British Empire and in America and the Far East. In 1982 the NZI Trust Department merged with the South British Insurance Company to form the New Zealand Guardian Trust and it is by this name that the building is now known.

20.



The New Zealand Insurance Company Offices in the 1920s. AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1642.

21. HOROTIU

The Horotiu stream once flowed down the lower Queen Street valley before discharging to the sea at about Fort Street. Auckland's notable engineers including C.W. Ligar, for whom the stream became named the Ligar Canal, underestimated the frequency and severity of Auckland's downpours as the attempts to tame the flow were unsuccessful and the subject of many a complaint to the Southern Cross Newspaper by settlers.

22. TE ONE PANEA “HEADS IN A LINE ON THE BEACH”

The waters of the Waitemata once lapped against the beach here at Fort Street. Te One Panea commemorates an event when a northern tribe performed ceremonies on warriors to lift them from their state of tapu. The heads of their slain enemies were stuck on posts, so numerous they lined the length of the beach.

22.



Commercial Bay in 1843. The foreshore is located close to present day Fort Street. The small building located along the beach front was the first wooden building constructed in Auckland. Originally the Government Store, by 1844 it was used as the market.

EDWARD ASHWORTH, AUCKLAND ART GALLERY.

FORT STREET AREA

Originally known as Fore Street, this road marks the original shoreline of the now reclaimed Commercial Bay. This area was the hub of trade and transport in the early settlement. Ships arriving with cargoes anchored out at sea and were unloaded by smaller cargo boats and horse-drawn carts. Maori in and around Auckland grew all kinds of fruit and vegetables for sale at the market located in this area. The street has long been an important part of the commercial life of the city with its many warehouses and office buildings. Today the Fort Street area is well known for its late-night entertainment with many of the city's adult entertainment venues located here. Popular among the nocturnal visitors is the "White Lady" mobile fast-food outlet in nearby Shortland Street that has been quelling the late-night hunger pangs of Aucklanders since 1960.

23.



The Imperial Hotel in 1912, also housed the offices of Colonial Mutual Assurance Company.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W566.

23. IMPERIAL HOTEL 68 QUEEN STREET **B** **II**

The Imperial Hotel occupies a large Fort Street frontage and comprises three buildings disguised as two. Part of the site has been occupied by a hotel since the 1860s. The present building bordering Queen Street was built in the mid 1880s, and incorporates an earlier brick building to the east. The new hotel was designed by architects E. Mahoney & Sons, who designed many of Auckland's numerous early corner pubs. By 1894 the hotel was taken over by William Pearce and it became one of the most popular watering holes amongst businessmen. It offered comfortable and well furnished smoking and commercial rooms along with 16 rooms for overnight guests. Of the clientele, it was said that there was 'little or no rough element noticeable'.

Walk along Fort Street to the intersection with Commerce Street.

24. WRIGHT'S BUILDING 20 FORT STREET **B** **II**

24.

Completed in 1911, the Wright's building was constructed for the carrying firm A.B. Wright & Sons to the design of architect Thomas Mahoney. The building is one of New Zealand's earliest examples of the Chicago architectural style. A.B. Wright & Co's teams of grey horses were a common sight in the city during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Soon after the erection of the building the company expanded and diversified, becoming shipping and customs agents with branches throughout New Zealand.



Cross Fort Street, and return back to the intersection with Jean Batten Place.

25.



25. JEAN BATTEN PLACE/ FORMER JEAN BATTEN POST OFFICE

The former Jean Batten Post Office stands approximately on the site of Auckland's first wooden building, a government store, erected in 1840. This timber structure was later replaced with a post office which graced the site from the 1860s. In 1941 the Jean Batten Post Office, along with the adjacent lane of the same name, were completed. Both were named in honour of New Zealand's most famous woman aviator.

Jean Batten became an overnight international celebrity when she smashed the women's record for a solo flight from England to Australia in 1934. The following year she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and in 1936 she completed the first ever direct flight from England to New Zealand. At the completion of this flight the 27-year-old was greeted at Auckland's Mangere Aerodrome by a crowd of 6000. Jean Batten Place was named in honour of the flight.

A plaque commemorating her achievement was erected on the former National Bank building on the east side of Jean Batten Place. This building was demolished in the 1970s and replaced with the present structure opened by Jean Batten on 22 November 1979.

26. TE WHATU

Te Whatu (literally The Rock) was a place at the foot of Shortland Street where waka could be moored to a rocky ledge. For the first 20 years of European settlement much trade came by way of waka as Maori supplied the settler market with all manner of produce including exotic fruits, flour, coal and flax. However in time Te Whatu and the beach were replaced with wharves, and the sea bed reclaimed.



MIDTOWN WALK

THIS AREA IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT DEMONSTRATES BOTH **CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN THE SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL HISTORY OF AUCKLAND.**

View from the new wharf in 1852 showing Queen Street, and Shortland Street on the left.

COPY OF STANDIDGE AND CO. LITHOGRAPH, PRINT HELD AT ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY.



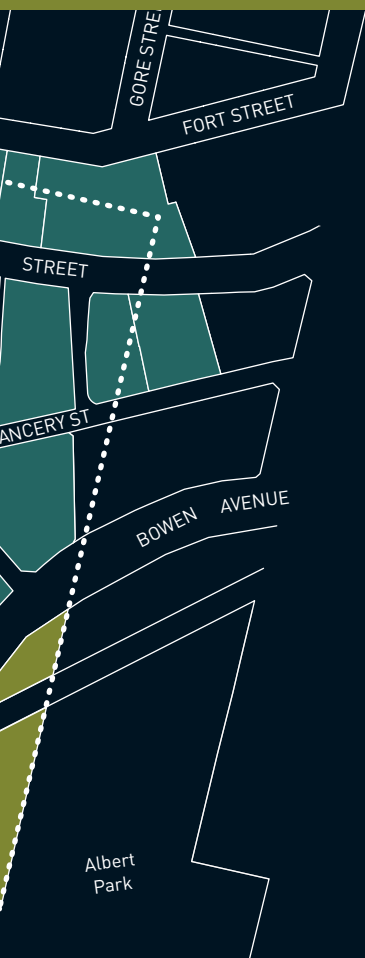
AUCKLAND CITY

HERITAGE WALKS MIDTOWN

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Blacketts Building | 11 | Administrator House |
| 2 | 94-96 Queen Street | 12 | Chancery Chambers |
| 3 | Craigs Building | 13 | Freyberg Place |
| 4 | Boots Chemist | 14 | Stone Steps |
| 5 | Bank of New Zealand Façade | 15 | Pioneer Womens and
Ellen Melville Hall |
| 6 | NZI House | 16 | McKenzies Building |
| 7 | De Bretts Hotel | 17 | Canterbury Arcade Annex |
| 8 | 23 Shortland Street | 18 | Victoria Street Lava Flow |
| 9 | General Buildings | 19 | Lister Building |
| 10 | Royal Exchange Assurance Building | | |



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 20 AMP Building | 30 Blackstone Chambers |
| 21 Whitcoulls Building | 31 Ellison Chambers |
| 22 Lewis Eady Building | 32 Vulcan Building |
| 23 Whitcombe & Tombs Building | 33 Prudential Building |
| 24 Premier Building | 34 Occidental Hotel |
| 25 Canterbury Arcade | 35 Leon Brook Models Building |
| 26 Landmark House | 36 Queens Ferry Hotel |
| 27 Bluestone Store | 37 Giffords Building |
| 28 Albert St Steps & Toilets | 38 Norfolk House |
| 29 Shakespeare Hotel | |



Mobility Parking



Mobility Toilets

When Auckland became the capital of New Zealand in 1841 the government buildings and military barracks were established on the Princes St. ridge. The route between the landing place and foreshore market place, known as Shortland Crescent, naturally developed as the commercial area. Service lanes grew to accommodate workmen and workshops in what are now High, O'Connell and Chancery Streets.

In 1858 fire broke out in the Osprey Inn in High Street and spread rapidly through the closely built wooden buildings. As a result of the large-scale destruction businesses rebuilt in Queen St where the sites were larger, the gradient flatter and where the drainage problems were being addressed. This enabled more substantial and grandiose buildings to be built. Queen Street thus took over the 'main street' mantle.

While Queen St has remained predominantly commercial and retail, High and O'Connell Streets and the connecting lanes have passed through many stages. From early residential and workshop origins, the 1860s saw a concentration of publishing and printing houses. Vulcan Lane's Queens Ferry and Occidental Hotels were favoured haunts of journalists and printers. Named for the Vulcan Forge established here in 1846, it became known as Vultures Lane frequented by prostitutes, peddlers, cockfights and bookmakers. This changed somewhat when the Magistrates Court, built in 1911, attracted law firms to the area. The concentration of public buildings around Freyberg Place lasted till the late 1880s when the Library, Police Station and Council Offices moved to new locations.

It remains a mixed use area with offices and residential apartments side by side. Numerous shops, restaurants and cafes are a vital part of the vibrant social atmosphere and sense of history.

A rich and varied architectural history is evident including fine examples of Victorian, Edwardian, Arts and Crafts, Art Deco and Modern buildings. From the 1930s depression to the present there has been little new development, only ten new buildings have been built since 1939.



View down a bustling Queen Street in the 1880s, with the Bank of New Zealand on the left.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 786

BEGIN THIS WALK ON THE CORNER OF QUEEN AND SWANSON STREETS AT THE HISTORIC BANK OF NEW ZEALAND FACADE.

The buildings visible across Queen Street are some of the earliest remaining in this area dating from the 1860s to the 1880s. From the late 1860s the appearance of Queen Street underwent a transformation as ornamented plastered brick buildings replaced small wooden shops. This change was led by banks and insurance companies. Investors and developers followed with the construction of more elaborate retail and commercial buildings.

1. BLACKETTS BUILDING

86-92 QUEEN STREET **B** **I**

Built in 1879 as head office for South British Insurance Co, it was designed by architects Richard Keals and Sons. The ornate Victorian Italianate style reflected the growing optimism in the economic future of New Zealand. South British Insurance Co., established by Auckland businessmen in 1872 to cover marine and fire risks, prospered due to the importance of shipping to the colony. A fourth storey in the same style was added in 1912, designed by architect Edward Bartley. It is a fine example of Auckland commercial architecture of the period. The name Blackett is that of the landowner, J.C. Blackett. He established a scholarship to St. John's College provided by the revenue from the lease as a memorial to his deceased wife.

View up Shortland Street in the 1880s showing Blacketts Building on the right, prior to the addition of the fourth storey.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 751

1.



2. 94-96 QUEEN STREET

Designed by architects Richard Keals & Sons, this building was built in 1882 for Messrs Chapman and Goldwater, as a pair to the Italianate façade of Craig's Building next door. The upper floors were used as offices

2, 3, 4.



3. CRAIGS BUILDING

98 – 100 QUEEN ST **B** **II**

An exclusive dining establishment by the name of St Mungo's Café and Confectionery was established on this site in 1855. The present building was also designed by Richard Keals & Sons in an ornate Victorian Italianate style, and opened in 1882 as the new St Mungos Café. While a shop and public dining room occupied the ground floor, the two upper floors were reserved for private dining, ladies dining, smoking rooms and private lounges. In 1906 J.J. Craig Merchants moved into part of the building and by 1920 occupied the entire space. A successful entrepreneur in coal and timber, J.J. Craig owned 42 ships for trade around New Zealand and to Australia.

4. BOOTS DISPENSING CHEMIST

104 QUEEN STREET

This building is one of the earliest buildings in Queen Street, built in the 1860s for the leading drapery establishment of old Auckland, Graham & Company. At the time the Graham Brothers, David and John advised the elite on the latest fashions from London and Paris.

Cross Queen Street to the corner of Queen and Shortland Streets. Look back across Queen Street. On the other side is; -

5. BANK OF NEW ZEALAND BUILDING FACADE 125 QUEEN ST **B** **I**

In 1865 the directors of the Bank of New Zealand commissioned the distinguished Melbourne architect, Leonard Terry, to design a new head office. The imposing Greek revival façade was described as "unquestionably the finest in Auckland " when the bank opened in 1867. Also brought from Australia was plate glass for windows, a hundred tonnes of Hobart stone for the facade as well as stonemasons. A special footpath of polished York stone further enhanced the bank. The building was enlarged in 1882 with the construction of an additional two bays to the north. One hundred years later it was threatened with demolition after its sale by the BNZ. However, through negotiation the façade was preserved while a multi-storey tower was built behind.

The Bank of New Zealand in Queen Street in 1881, just prior to the addition of two further bays. Examples of the first-generation timber buildings are seen at right.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W282

5.



Walk up Shortland Street. One of the first streets to be formed, it connected the old landing place with the administration centre on the ridge of Princes Street. From the earliest days it was a commercial centre.



An early view of Shortland Street with Commercial Bay in the foreground.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 624

6. NZI HOUSE (SOUTH BRITISH INSURANCE) 5-13 SHORTLAND ST **B** **I**

An early 'high rise', its nine stories are clad in sandstone with the base made of Coromandel granite. Minimally decorated, the accent is on its vertical form which is relieved by elaborate string courses. It was designed in 1927 by R.F. Draffin of the well known firm of Grierson, Aimer and Draffin for the South British Insurance Co. Influences of the turn of the century Chicago style can be seen in the double storey pilasters at the base and window treatments. Stripped classical detailing is continued inside the building, where the lobby has a coffered ceiling, marble facings and decorative bronze grilles. The building has been redeveloped for commercial and residential use, with extra floors added in 2001.



7. DE BRETT'S HOTEL CNR. SHORTLAND AND HIGH STREETS II

Hotels played a major role as social venues and public meeting places in the life of the nascent city. There has been one on this site since Auckland's earliest days. The original 1841 wooden Commercial Hotel was destroyed by the great fire of 1858. Rebuilt in brick, it was the victim of fire again in 1926. Wade and Bartley designed the present concrete building in a stripped Classical style with restrained decorative elements. The High Street entrance incorporates Italian Serpentine stone panels.

8. JACKSON AND RUSSELL'S BUILDING 23 SHORTLAND STREET

Constructed in 1918, the Jackson and Russell Building was designed by architect Daniel B Paterson. It housed a range of professional practices, and reflects a change in the High Street area from a neglected mixture of warehouse, commercial and residential uses to a well-consolidated business district, which was described as the hub of the legal fraternity. The building demonstrates the neo-classical style that was still the predominant force in the design of New Zealand public and commercial buildings at the time.

8.

7.



9. GENERAL BUILDINGS

CNR. SHORTLAND AND O'CONNELL STREETS



This grand building designed for the Yorkshire Insurance Co. by W.R. Bloomfield in 1928 uses its corner site to advantage. The architecture reflects the monumental features of the Chicago style with round arches at the base, large glazed openings, neo-classical detailing and the fine proportions. The facades are symmetrical with arched ground floor windows and the entrance doors are surmounted by bronze decorative work. The two uphill bays were added in the 1980s to match the original. The entrance foyer features panels of Whangarei marble and pilasters with gilt plasterwork ornamentation. Of particular interest is the decorative staircase banister.

9.



The General Buildings in 1970, prior to the construction of the two additional bays.

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Walk through the lobby of the General Buildings and exit onto O'Connell Street.

This area was Auckland's earliest slum. Set well back from the two main commercial streets the allotments were bought up by speculators in the first land sales and soon subdivided. Being conveniently located between the port and the barracks where most activity was taking place it soon became overcrowded. The narrow lanes gave access to 'sly grog shops, receiving houses, and skittle grounds', complained the NZ Herald & Auckland Gazette in 1841. The overcrowded conditions were exacerbated by the sloping terrain, poor drainage and a slaughter house further uphill.

10. ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE BUILDING, 10 O'CONNELL STREET **B**

Designed by Chilwell and Trevithick in 1925, this is one of a group of buildings constructed in the mid to late 1920s, which transformed O'Connell Street. The detailing demonstrates traditional Classical influences, however the building reflects a transition to a more modern architectural style with its increased size of window openings. The entrance doors have an elaborate bronze grille surmounted by the letters REA. The original cage lift still functions.

10.



11. ADMINISTRATOR HOUSE (OPPOSITE) **B**

The facade of this impressive building is of Oamaru limestone above a base of Nelson marble. Also built in 1925 for the Alliance Assurance Co. it was designed by Rough and Hooper to promote a clearly recognisable visual corporate identity. The medallions on the exterior are the Alliance Assurance emblems showing a quadrangular castle standing on a rock symbolising strength and security. The high quality craftsmanship in the interior stone and plasterwork can be seen in the main ground floor chamber.

11.



The Alliance Assurance Company Building, now Administrator House, shortly after it opened in 1925.

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12. CHANCERY CHAMBERS

CNR. CHANCERY ST AND O'CONNELL ST **B** **II**

Designed by T.C. Mullions and J. Sholto Smith, the original drawings of a much more decorated version show how modern architects adapted traditional styles such as Gothic to concrete construction. It was built at the height of the post World War I building boom between 1924-25 for a private company formed to deal in land and buildings. With its tower, rounded corner and accentuated vertical features it is a focal point of the area, which retains much of the scale and character of 1920s commercial Auckland. The circular entrance lobby has a mosaic floor, marble walls and plastered coffered ceiling. It houses the offices of the Auckland District Law Society.

Original perspective for Chancery Chambers by Mullions & Smith Architects. The design was simplified to save costs.

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12.



12. CHANCERY CHAMBERS (continued)

A plaque in the lobby commemorates the site of the first house in Auckland. John Logan Campbell, a young Scottish entrepreneur, arrived in Auckland with stores to sell to the new capital's settlers. He became a successful businessman, land owner, Mayor and a benefactor to Auckland. He built his cottage 'Acacia' here in 1841. Acacia cottage has been relocated to Cornwall Park, a large farm park which Campbell donated to the city. It has been restored and is open to the public.

Acacia Cottage was John Logan Campbell's house. It is shown here in 1883 with Mr and Mrs Wilkinson and the Peet Family.

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12.



13. FREYBERG PLACE 14. STONE STEPS **B**

This recently redeveloped public space commemorates one of New Zealand's most distinguished soldiers, Lord Bernard Freyberg VC, Commander-in-Chief of the Second New Zealand Division. He commanded the Expeditionary Force in North Africa and Italy during World War II and was New Zealand's Governor General between 1946-52. The bronze statue of him by sculptor Anthony Stones, stands on the south side of the place.

Over the years, the junction of High Street and Chancery Street housed public buildings. Up till the 1880's the Courthouse and the Police Station along with the Library in the Mechanics Institute were located around this area. The first Wesleyan Chapel was built here in 1843 and was replaced by a brick church in 1848, the **Stone Steps** of which can be seen leading up to the Metropolis tower.

13.



The High Street Methodist Church was constructed in 1848. The portico was added later. The steps and street wall remain, now leading up to the base of the Metropolis Tower.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 128

14.



15. PIONEER WOMENS AND ELLEN MELVILLE HALL **B**

Built in 1962 by Auckland City Council as a centre for women, this modern building of reinforced concrete, steel and glass was designed by Tibor. K. Donner who, in his role as City Architect, designed a number of significant modern Auckland public buildings. The hall is dedicated to the memory of Ellen Melville, one of New Zealand's first woman lawyers and the first female Auckland City Councillor. It was designed to serve as a meeting place for women's organisations complete with rest rooms and crèche. It features a large hall on the first floor for receptions, meetings and dramatic productions. Two small committee rooms cater for meetings and lectures.

To the east of Freyberg Place is the recent Chancery retail and commercial development built on the site of Warspite St and Baron's Lane and earlier commercial buildings which were demolished in the late 1980s.

15.



Ellen Melville Hall,
Freyberg Place.

DONNER PAPERS, AUCKLAND
UNIVERSITY ARCHITECTURAL
DRAWING ARCHIVE.

16. MCKENZIES BUILDING 27 HIGH STREET (ACROSS THE STREET)

Built around the turn of the century it was bought by Andrews and Clark in 1912. This large furniture manufacturer and retailer used the Queen Street frontage as a shop and that on High Street as a workshop. In 1929 the well known philanthropist John McKenzie bought the property next door to establish an Auckland branch of a nationwide department store. In 1959 McKenzies incorporated the building into its store, which became an icon of New Zealand retailing.



16.

17. CANTERBURY ARCADE ANNEX 47 HIGH STREET **B**

In 1965 architect Peter Beavan designed this office block, which along with two older buildings form the Canterbury Arcade from Queen Street through to High Street. Utilising modern materials and construction techniques Beavan introduced qualities he had admired in the streetscapes of European cities. The slim High Street facade has balconies, verandas, French windows, shutters and a Parisian garret-like penthouse.

17.



18. VICTORIA STREET LAVA FLOW

The Victoria Street Carpark building is located on the approximate site of a volcanic vent which erupted at least 60,000 years ago causing a flow of basalt down Victoria Street toward the Queen Street valley. This flow of lava has created the levelling of Queen Street between Victoria and Wellesley Streets. Research using drilled core samples is currently underway to map the extent of the lava flow and other hidden features of this tiny, short-lived early inner city volcano.

At the top of Victoria Street is Albert Park, Auckland's premier inner-city park which was established in 1882 on land previously occupied by the military barracks. Opposite the end of High Street in Victoria Street is the Lister Building and adjacent is the former AMP building, now FAI Finance.

19. LISTER BUILDING

VICTORIA STREET WEST **B** **II**

Named for the British surgeon and medical scientist Sir Joseph Lister, the building was intended as offices for medical practitioners and dentists. It was built in 1924-25 and designed by Thomas Mullions. Capitalising on the corner site it is influenced by the Chicago style of office blocks. Renovations in the late 1980s removed much of the plaster decoration. With 120 offices, some occupied by dentists, the building has uncomfortable memories for many older Aucklanders.

19, 20.



20. AMP BUILDING

CNR. QUEEN AND VICTORIA STREET WEST

Described as a "scaled down Kiwi version of the glass skyscraper of America", the AMP Building built in 1962 reflected contemporary architectural and structural developments. Designed by Jack Manning of Thorpe, Cutter, Pickmere & Douglas the building is sheathed in a curtain wall consisting of aluminum frames clad in stainless steel, and glazed with heat absorbing glass and green opaque glass spandrel panels. The columns are clad with South African black granite. French marble was used in the foyer and Italian travertine laid on the pavement around the building. It is one of the earliest modern high-rise commercial buildings in Auckland, and reflects a period of significant change in the character and pattern of development in Auckland city.

21. WHITCOULLS BUILDING (JOHN COURTS) 204 QUEEN STREET **B II**

This prominent corner site lent itself to a grand architectural style. Designed by architect John Currie in 1899 for the Direct Supply Company, the first three stories are in the Victorian Italianate style. Internally the building retains its timber columns and floor structure. In 1910 John Court opened his department store in the building and in 1916 added three stories in the same style. The department store of five floors offered merchandise for every household requirement. After a shopping expedition to the city the family could relax in the roof-garden tearooms and be entertained by an orchestra. A memorial lamp to John Court, who died in 1933, still stands on the roof.

The John Courts Building on the corner of Queen and Victoria Streets in 1918, following the addition of the three upper floors and roof garden.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1651

21.



22. LEWIS EADY BUILDING

192-196 QUEEN STREET **B** **II**

The first two floors were originally built in the 1870s as a music theatre, the Hippodrome. In 1927-1928 architect D.G. Plumley extended the building for Lewis Eady to include a recording studio and a chamber music auditorium which now forms part of the World De Luxe store accessed and visible from the Little High Street arcade at the rear. Note the elaborate cornice above the middle window of the third floor. Two additional levels of apartments were added in 2000.

23. WHITCOMBE AND TOMBS BUILDING

186 QUEEN STREET **B**

Chilwell and Trevithick designed this building with a heavy plain façade in 1925. The Queen Street façade is divided into three bays with a curved pediment over the middle one. A cantilevered cornice separates the fourth and fifth floors. The venerable company was founded in Christchurch in 1882 by George Whitcombe bookseller and George Tombs, printer. Educational publishing was the mainstay of the company when it came to Auckland in 1916. The name Whitcombe and Tombs became synonymous with bookshops throughout New Zealand. In 1971 the firm was merged to become Whitcoulls. In 1991 the store moved to Whitcoulls (former John Courts) Building, and additional levels of apartments were added in 2000 to the original.

Looking up Queen Street in 1921 showing the Whitcombe and Tombs Building (with clock), the Lewis Eady Building, Security Building, Partridge Building, and John Courts Department Store on the corner.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1745

23.

22.



Continue down Queen Street.

On the opposite side of Durham St East is:

24. PREMIER BUILDING 2 DURHAM ST EAST **B**

Constructed in 1907, Premier Building is an example of the response to the need for professional offices in the city centre as a result of economic growth. Offices for lawyers, accountants, doctors and dentists were provided above street level retail. Designed by Robert de Montalk in the Edwardian Italianate style it has suffered little modification and the interior is largely intact with pressed metal dado panels and ceilings. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust occupies offices on the second and third floors.

24.



View of the east side of Queen Street in 1913. The Premier Building constructed in 1907 was prominent as adjacent sites had yet to be developed in the 1920s.

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25. CANTERBURY ARCADE 174 QUEEN STREET **B** **II**

The **Brunswick Building** was built at the same time and by the same architects as its neighbour, the Warwick Building. It is one of the four buildings forming the Canterbury Arcade. Influences of Art Nouveau can be seen in the elegant symmetry of the bay windows and restrained decoration. The parapet of the central bay is higher and arched with a decorative swag, and decorative cords descend the pilasters from parapet to below fourth level.

Warwick Building 166 Queen Street **B **II****

The influences of Art Nouveau can also be seen in the simple ornamentation on the façade of this building constructed in 1914. Designed by Wade & Wade for musical instrument importer, Arthur Eady, many tenants were associated with music; teachers of dance and instrument, and the Auckland Orchestral Society. The shop housed a sports shop from 1920 which catered to *'every requisite for Cricket, Golf, Football, Boxing, Angling, Tennis, Croquet and Shooting'*. It is now incorporated into the Canterbury Arcade (see17).

26. LANDMARK HOUSE

CNR QUEEN ST AND DURHAM ST **B** **I**

Landmark House (behind you), has a grand entrance with ornamental brass doors and marble cladding.

Referred to as an 'exuberant folly' its soaring lines and ornamentation represent a break with previous Classical styles of commercial architecture. New Zealand motifs evident in the exterior and interior decoration are a deliberate attempt to give a New Zealand identity to the building. The 60ft high shafts of molded and exposed aggregate concrete made in Auckland were unique at the time. The interior public spaces were decorated with Italian marble, bronze and carved kauri wood. It was built for the Auckland Electric Power Board 1927-1930 to a design by Wade and Bartley. To promote the use of electricity the exterior was illuminated with shafts of coloured light.

Walk up Durham Street West, turn right into lane.

26.



27. BLUESTONE STORE.

DURHAM LANE **A** **I**

This is the oldest remaining commercial building in Auckland. Built in 1861 as a warehouse for storekeepers Bernhard Levy and Nathan Goldwater the exterior walls are of volcanic stone. It was used as a warehouse for various companies and for thirty years the Kiwi Boot Polish Company produced its famous shoe polish in this building. During the 1970s it was a rock music venue.

27.



28. ALBERT STREET STEPS AND TOILETS

DURHAM ST WEST **B**

Return to Durham Street. The bluestone wall at the top is the oldest piece of road construction in the central city. The men's toilets were constructed underneath the road in 1880 to 'satisfy standards of social and visual decency'. The cast iron screens at the entrance and within have large Star of David motifs. Just inside is a framed reproduction of 1906 proposed alterations by Trevithick. The cast iron railing and lamp archway were also part of this development.

Climb the stairs to Albert St, or return to Queen Street and continue to 31, Ellison Chambers.

28.



Turn right along Albert St. Before turning down Wyndham Street you will see on the opposite corner:-

29. SHAKESPEARE HOTEL CNR ALBERT AND WYNDHAM STREETS **B** **II**

This typical Victorian corner hotel was built in 1898 by Thomas Foley. The kitchen, laundry, wine and beer cellars were in the basement, on the ground floor were two private bars, a public bar and three large sitting rooms; on the first floor were the dining rooms, sitting rooms and three bedrooms; the floor above had ten bedrooms and the attic a further three. The corner site allowed the guests to access their apartments from Albert Street without having to pass through or in proximity to the bar – an excellent arrangement for ladies and families. It was popular with farmers coming to Auckland for its proximity to the sale yards. The Shakespeare is one of the small group of surviving and protected Victorian/Edwardian ‘corner pubs’.

29.

*Turn right down
Wyndham Street.*



30. BLACKSTONE CHAMBERS 14 WYNDHAM STREET **B**

Named after William Blackstone (1723-1780) who first attempted to put the whole of English law into one volume, this building was once part of a small legal precinct at the bottom of Wyndham Street. It was designed by architect Henry Wade, and built in 1882 for John Marshall. The offices of one of Auckland’s longest running newspapers, The Star, were here in the 1880s. An enterprising Henry Brett housed carrier pigeons on the roof. This flock of well-trained birds brought news from the Thames goldfields and of overseas ships’ arrivals from Russell. The building has also housed the legal practice of Thorne Thorne White & Clark-Walker since the early 1900s.

30.



31. ELLISON CHAMBERS

138-146 QUEEN ST **B** **II**

Despite being only six floors, Ellison Chambers is technically an early skyscraper as it has a concrete encased steel frame with pre-cast reinforced concrete slab floors. One of the earliest buildings in Auckland to be designed in the Classical Free Style, the brick giant order pilasters with plain capitals give height to the building. Built for Mr Ellison a retired shoemaker in 1913-14, it has always housed shops, banks and offices. It was designed by Daniel B. Patterson.

31.



Ellison Chambers in 1964.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, A910

32. VULCAN BUILDING

118-124 QUEEN STREET **B** **I**

The design of the Vulcan Building incorporates historical motifs popular in the Chicago office building style. Designed in 1928 by Holman, Moses and Watkins, the reinforced concrete frame is detailed to look like stonework. With the splayed corner, tower, cupola and balconies, the design expresses the exuberance of the era. The lobby retains the original terrazzo floor, marble detailing and timber lift carriages.

32.



33. PRUDENTIAL BUILDING 112 QUEEN STREET II

The building had an association with the music industry, selling musical instruments and published music. It was constructed for Arthur Eady Ltd in 1939 and later occupied by Messrs Charles Begg and Co. Ltd, who were also in the music business. Designed by architects Chilwell and Trevithick the building attracted considerable interest because of the extensive use of cream, red and green opaque Vitrolite spandrel panels along both the Queen Street and Vulcan Lane facades. In 1960 it was sold to Prudential Insurance and the glass was covered with plaster or removed.

Cross Queen Street into Vulcan Lane

Vulcan Lane with its early Victorian hotels and pedestrian nature is evocative of the street life that existed during the mid to late 19th century although its width was doubled in 1928. Originating as a service lane between High Street and Queen Street it is believed to have been named after James M^cLeods 'Vulcan Foundry' in 1850. With the establishment of the two hotels, the area became a social centre attracting an 'evil population' who were described in 1890s as prostitutes, peddlers, larrikins and juvenile delinquents who indulged in cockfighting and bookmaking. The name Vulture's Lane was frequently applied. In the early part of the 20th century there was an increase in offices for lawyers and other professionals in the lane. The buildings on the southern side date from this time. At the instigation of business associations Vulcan Lane became a pedestrian mall in 1967.

The corner of Vulcan Lane in the 1880s. The lower part of the Lane was widened in 1928 and buildings on the right side date from this period. The original width is still evident in the upper part of the lane beyond High Street.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1614



33.



34. OCCIDENTAL HOTEL

6-8 VULCAN LANE **B I**

A hotel was first built on this site in 1870 for the colourful character Edward Perkins, on the original site of the forge of blacksmith James McLeod. The forge produced ironwork for ships being fitted up in the port. Inadequate foundations have resulted in the distinctive “lean” to the hotel.

Edward Perkins, a Yankee and former sailor, set new standards in hotel keeping in the city. In addition to the bar and accommodation the hotel provided a reading room, billiard room and café as well as a famous museum of curios, paintings, animals, birds, fish and autographs. In 1884 the old Occidental Hotel was demolished and the present building was built. It was designed by Mahoney and Sons, one of Auckland’s most prominent early architectural practices. The interiors have recently been sympathetically adapted by the Belgian brewers Stella Artois. The Occidental’s highly ornamented facade is a good example of the Victorian Italianate corner pub style once common in Auckland. The single-storey section was the famous billiard room, and the original ceiling and lay-light can be seen in the bar.

34.



35. LEON BROOK MODELS

10 VULCAN LANE **I**

This handsome brick building between the two famous watering holes has an uncertain provenance but is probably the result of a 1900s modernisation of an older building. During World War I it was offices for several trotting and jockey clubs while the bookmakers did business next door. In 1920 it was bought by Arthur Eady's music business and has stayed within that family. The Coffee Bean Lounge occupied the basement during the 1950s, 60s and 70s, and along with its two neighbours, contributed to Vulcan Lane becoming a focus for Auckland's youth culture of the time.

35, 36.



36. QUEENS FERRY HOTEL

12 VULCAN LANE **B** **I**

Named after its owner John Robertson's home of Queens Ferry, Scotland, the building was built around 1858 as a general store. The Robertson family is believed to have operated the first sawmill in Auckland in Vulcan Lane. In 1865 Robertson opened the building as a hotel, and in 1882 another storey was added with more bedrooms, and sitting rooms to a design by the architect Edward Bartley. There were alterations to the hotel in 1902 by architect Robert de Montalk. The two Vulcan Lane pubs were significant in Auckland's social history as the meeting places for journalists, and bases for licensed bookmakers. While the patrons of the Occidental tended to be commercial and professional men, the Queens Ferry was the pub most frequented by journalists.

37. GIFFORDS BUILDING

4 VULCAN LANE **B**

Designed by M.K. Draffin for Alfred Gifford in 1929, this art deco influenced building uses its corner position as a design feature. The corner is splayed and accentuated as a vertical bay with strong horizontal lines down both facades. The entrance lobby has a frieze at the top of the wall in sculptured plaster in pastel colours and the brass doors of the lift are emblazoned with the initials GB.

37.



38. NORFOLK HOUSE

VULCAN LANE **B**

Completed in early 1912 it was designed to contain fifty offices. The Auckland Star noted at the time that, *'it would be lit throughout with electricity, and there will be an electric lift'*. Designed in a stripped classical style, this building takes advantage of its corner location with a curved facade and arched windows above its main entrance.

Time for refreshments.

38.





UPTOWN WALK

HOROTIU IS THE NAME OF THE STREAM THAT FLOWED THROUGH THE QUEEN STREET VALLEY AND IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH MAORI SETTLEMENTS OF THIS AREA INCLUDING THE LOCATION OF THE PRESENT-DAY TOWN HALL AND AOTEA CENTRE.

View towards the harbour from upper Hobson Street in the 1850s. Drawn by P.J. Hogan, it shows the North Shore and Rangitoto in the distance, beyond the developing town of Auckland. Queen Street is in the centre.

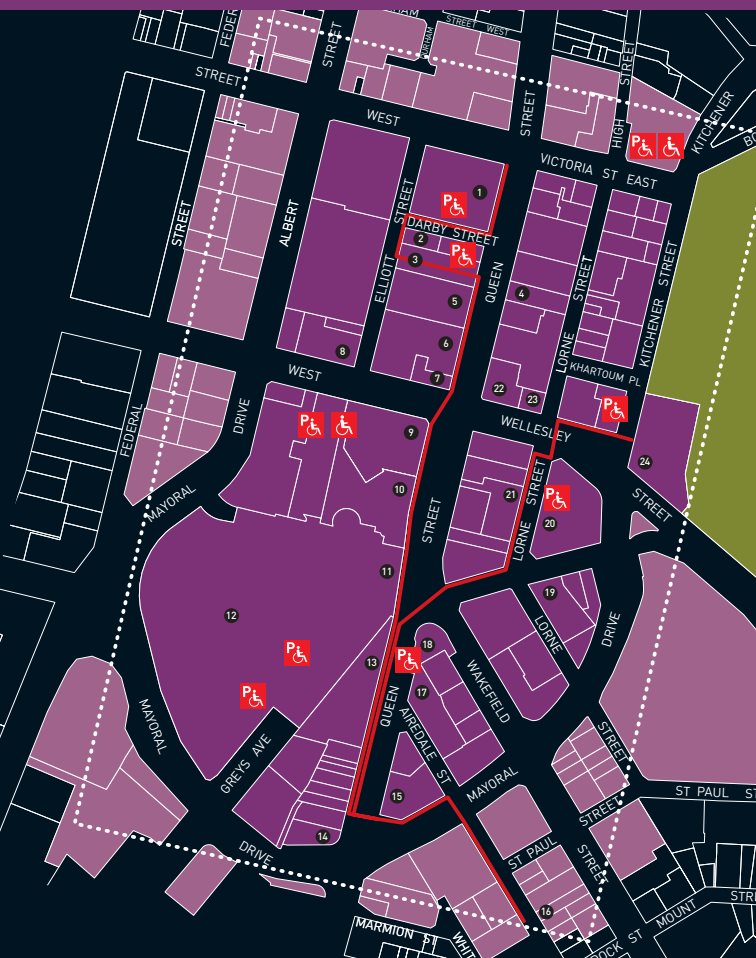
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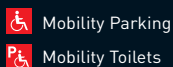
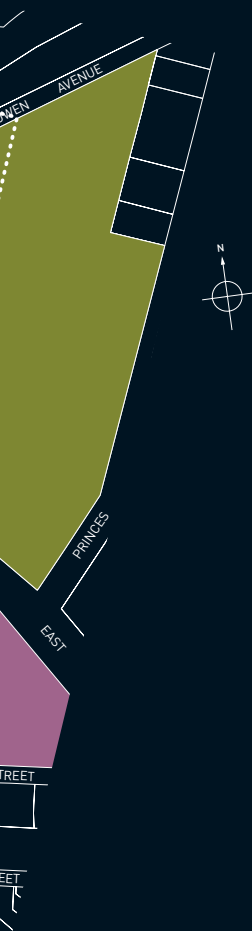
AUCKLAND CITY

HERITAGE WALKS UPTOWN

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Site Of Old Gaol and Courthouse | 9 Civic Theatre |
| 2 Darby's Building | 10 Civic House and Fergusson House |
| 3 The Strand Arcade | 11 Aotea Square and Aotea Centre |
| 4 Old Asb Building | 12 Sir Dove Myer Robinson |
| 5 Mid City Centre | 13 Town Hall |
| 6 Smith And Caughey's Department Store | 14 The Sunday School Building |
| 7 The Civic Hotel and London Bar | 15 Queens Head Hotel Façade |
| 8 T&G Building | 16 Airedale Street Houses |
| | 17 MLC Building |



- 18 Methodist Church
- 19 Senior College Of Education Building
- 20 Public Library
- 21 St. James Theatre
- 22 New Gallery (former Telephone Exchange)
- 23 St James Apartments
- 24 Auckland Art Gallery



Early European settlement initially centred on the foreshore and grew southward; the rising ground and marshy land in this area was about the town limits. The first gaol was sited at the intersection of Queen and Victoria Streets. However, as the commercial area grew and the city prospered retail and entertainment enterprises were built in this part of the city. In 1873 the city markets relocated from downtown to a large building approximately on the site of the Aotea Centre.

Imposing two and often three-storied masonry retail and warehouse buildings were at the Queen Street, Wellesley Street crossroads. On the north-west corner was the United Services Hotel, now the Civic Hotel and London Bar.

The Fullers Opera House was situated on the corner of Elliot and Wellesley Streets. By the last two decades of the nineteenth century opera, vaudeville and hotels were thriving in the area and with the introduction of film even more so.

The intersection of Queen Street and Wellesley Street was an early transportation hub with trams from Karangahape Rd and Ponsonby intersecting with transport down Queen Street. The first horse-drawn trams from Wellesley Street to Ponsonby began in August 1884. Two horses drew the tram with a third ridden by a boy in the front to assist with the steep incline up Wellesley Street West. Reaching Hobson Street, the boy rode down again to wait for the next tram. Electric tram services started in the early 1900s.

Major civic amenities developed in this area between the 1880s and 1910s when the city's first purpose-built Art Gallery and Library and the Town hall were constructed. These functions have remained and expanded over time. This upper part of the central city remains a vibrant focus for theatres and cinemas, civic administration, Auckland's main public library and the Art Gallery.



The intersection of Queen and Wellesley Streets in 1903, shortly after the introduction of electric trams. The Art Gallery and Public Library further up Wellesley Street East opened in 1888.

START AT CORNER OF VICTORIA ST AND QUEEN STREET



The first courthouse, jail and gallows.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2587.

1. SITE OF OLD GAOL AND COURTHOUSE CORNER QUEEN AND VICTORIA STREETS

The city's first gaol was on the site of the National Bank and Phillips Fox buildings until 1856 when the last of the prisoners were moved to the Mt Eden prison. The entire block bounded by Victoria Street West, Elliot Street, Darby and Queen Street contained a courthouse, gaols, hard labour yard, stocks and gallows. The site was the setting of Auckland's grimmer scenes where one could be tried and sentenced, locked up, hung and then buried all within a few yards. The Waihorotiu Stream also flowed through here, and in 1987 when the foundations of the present buildings were constructed, a Maori settlement site and artifacts were found dating back to the fifteenth century.

The following is a Maori song from the 1850s that bluntly illustrates one indigenous view of early Auckland:

I am going to Auckland tomorrow,
The abode of the Pakeha,
The place tobacco and blankets are sold,
Where the Governor and the soldiers live,
Where the prison stands,
Where the ships lie,
The fire boats are seen,
Where men are hung;
Tomorrow I shall go to Auckland.

Looking up Victoria Street West, the most stunning addition to the city's skyline, Auckland's Skytower, was opened on 3 August 1997. Designed by architects Craig Craig Moller, it is 328 metres high and is the tallest tower in the southern hemisphere.

Walk along Queen Street and turn right into Darby Street.

2.



2. DARBY'S BUILDING CORNER DARBY AND ELLIOT STREETS

Walter Darby, manufacturer's agent and warehouseman, established his business in the early 1900s and commissioned this handsome building in 1908. Amongst the enormous variety of goods, he was the sole agent for Boomerang Teas and Marsuma Cigars – 6d for 10. It is now the home of one of the oldest surviving retailers in the city, Tanfield & Potter Co. importers of fine china.

Walk along Elliot Street and turn into the Strand Arcade

3.



The Strand Arcade in Queen Street in 1915. The Thistle Hotel was located to the right.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1557.

3. THE STRAND ARCADE 233-237 QUEEN STREET

B II

The Strand was built in 1900 and described at the time as 'incomparably the largest and finest building of its kind in New Zealand'. It was fitted with the latest developments in lifts, ventilation and lighting. Many of the shops were rented to the city's leading businessmen and it became a fashionable shopping place for the Auckland elite. A dining room in the basement had seating for 700 people. A glass roof was installed in 1910 after the owner Mr Arthur Myers had admired the glass-domed Burlington Arcade in Piccadilly, London. In 1916 the Strand Theatre was opened with a wide marble staircase leading from the arcade to the foyer. The whole building was remodelled in 1970.

Turn right into Queen St. Opposite is the former ASB, now McDonald's.

4.



4. OLD ASB BUILDING 260 QUEEN STREET **B** **I**

Now McDonald's this was formerly the main branch of the Auckland Savings Bank, which was formed in 1847 and has been a major part of Auckland commerce since. The founders, John Logan Campbell, J. Dilworth and J.J. Montefiore, were prominent businessmen closely involved in the building of the city's commercial centre. The Auckland Savings Bank headquarters opened here in 1884. The Italianate façade and elaborately decorated main hall was designed by Edward Bartley to reflect the bank's principles of security, stability and prosperity. In 1968 it was sold and adapted for a McDonald's restaurant, which has harmoniously fitted into the former banking chamber. Inside, most of the decorative plaster ceiling and tile floor can still be admired.

Continue along Queen Street.

5. MID CITY CENTRE 260 QUEEN STREET

The mirror glass-clad façade of the Mid City Centre was built as part of a wave of new development in central Auckland in the 1980s. Designed by Sinclair Johns Architects for Chase Corporation, it initially housed a cinema complex.

5.



6.



6. SMITH AND CAUGHEY'S DEPARTMENT STORE 253-261 QUEEN STREET **A** **I**

Smith & Caughey's is the archetype and sole Auckland survivor of the great family department store era. Marianne Smith, a pioneering businesswoman, started a drapery store in 1880 and was joined by her brother Andrew Caughey in 1882. In the mid-1880s the store moved to its present site. The fine art deco building, built 1927-29, was designed by American Roy Lippincott, of the Chicago architectural school.

A meeting room especially for the Auckland Lyceum Club was included. Formed in 1919 as the Auckland Women's Club, the aim was to 'establish a club for women interested in social, political and artistic affairs'. Members were active in campaigning on women's and children's welfare, standing for public office and parliament. Ellen Melville, a founding member of the Lyceum, was the first woman elected to the Auckland City Council in 1913.

7.



The United Services Hotel on the corner of Wellesley Street in 1924.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W303.

7. THE CIVIC HOTEL AND LONDON BAR CORNER QUEEN AND WELLESLEY STREETS

This corner hotel began life as the United Services Hotel in the mid-1870s. The upstairs London Bar has been a popular jazz venue for over 50 years, with many of New Zealand's leading jazz musicians having played here. In 1959 the building was refurbished and renamed the Civic Hotel.

Cross the road and look up Wellesley Street.

8.

8. T&G BUILDING 17-31 WELLESLEY STREET WEST **B** **II**

The tower on the T&G Building up the hill on Wellesley Street represents the strength of the Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society which remodelled the entire building in 1928. Archibald Clark & Sons Ltd was one of the biggest and oldest warehouses and manufacturers in Auckland when they commissioned the building in 1910. A draper from Scotland, Archibald Clark, opened his first drapery business in 1850 and became the first mayor of Auckland.



9. CIVIC THEATRE 269-285 QUEEN STREET **A** **I**

In the 1920s this area was the theatre district of Auckland, with the picture-palaces of the Majestic and Regent on Queen Street and across the road the St James. In 1929 Thomas O'Brien secured the lease to the Civic site and commissioned a new theatre to be the 'largest in the Dominion'. It was to seat over two thousand people and the distance from the projector to the screen was only slightly less than that in Radio City Hall in New York. It accommodated live performances of dancing and music as well as tearooms and dances.

Designed by Bohringer Taylor and Johnson, the amazing interiors of this "atmospheric theatre" with Persian, Moorish and Hindu motifs create an exotic and magical world. The ceiling over the main auditorium gives the illusion of a starlit night sky.

The Wintergarden Night club - famous for the legendary dancer Freda Stark who is reputed to have danced in nothing but gold paint - earned a reputation with American GIs in World War II. Alterations over the years saw the removal of some of the lavish decoration. The Civic Theatre was conserved and upgraded in the late 1990s. Equipped for both film and live shows it remains one of the most memorable and best-loved venues in Auckland.

9.



Interior of the foyer at The Civic Theatre.
REES OSBOURNE.

10. CIVIC HOUSE AND FERGUSSON HOUSE 287-295 QUEEN STREET **B II**

Civic House and Fergusson House to the left of the Civic Theatre were designed by Sinclair O'Connor in 1929. Civic House was built for Tanfield Potter & Co, importers of fine pottery and glassware. The window displays of luxury imported goods were always a fascination for the Auckland brides with their wedding lists. The front parts of both buildings have been incorporated with the Village Force cinema and entertainment centre behind, which opened in the late 1990s.

10.

9.



Continue up Queen Street along the edge of Aotea Square

11.



11. AOTEA SQUARE AND AOTEA CENTRE

In pre-European times this open space was a rush filled swamp rich in bird life and the source of the Horotiu stream that ran down the Queen Street Valley. In 1855 a Crown Grant designated this area for the purpose of a public market to Auckland City. In 1868 it was drained and filled and in June 1873 the New City Market was opened. Brett's 1878 Auckland Almanac describes it: 'The Market House, with galvanised roof, in cruciform shape. The stalls are neatly formed, and on Saturday evening present a very animated sight – almost every kind of trade being represented, from the purveyor of mutton and beef to the garrulous itinerant vendor of smoked fish, sweetmeats, crockery, and children's toys.' Generations later, the buildings on the south western edge of Aotea Square became the Cook Street markets of the hippie era, selling arts, crafts and exotic Asian products. Also in the buildings was the night club, Ace of Clubs, which hosted the talented artists of the day.

Since the 1960s many schemes have been proposed for the area to be developed as the Civic Administration Centre for government and city council offices – one plan included eight high rise buildings. The Civic Administration Building and Bledisloe House form part of this planned development. Aotea Square was created in 1974, and the Aotea Performing Arts and Conference Centre was completed in late 1989.

The carved ceremonial gateway with Maori motifs was created by Selwyn Mutu. It represents welcome to the city and the civic centre.

12.

12. SIR DOVE MYER ROBINSON

The bronze statue of the small man with arm raised, commemorates Auckland's longest-serving mayor – affectionately known as 'Robbie'. He was mayor from 1959 to 1965 and again from 1968 until 1980. With his working-class origins and leftist politics he was a man before his time, espousing conservation issues and advocating rapid rail for Auckland in 1968.



13. TOWN HALL

301-303 QUEEN STREET **A** **I**

When the site for the Council Chambers and Town Hall was chosen in 1908 it was derided for being in the valley and that a building on a triangular site would look 'exactly like a deformed wedge of cheese or a decrepit flat iron'. The design competition was won by J. Clark & Sons from Australia and the foundation stone laid in February 1909. Public criticism continued during construction; it was described as a 'monument to the stupendous folly of the City Council'. It opened in December 1911. The main auditorium seated 3000 and the concert chamber 880 and filled a great need for a capacious public hall.

It was used as council headquarters until 1955. In 1996 complete conservation and refurbishment was undertaken. In the lobby, plaques commemorate John Court and Ellen Melville - prominent Aucklanders.

13.



The Auckland Town Hall in 1912, at the apex of Queen Street and Greys Ave

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1300.

By Aotea Square cross to opposite side of Queen Street, and continue up to Mayoral Drive. Looking across to the west side of Queen Street.

14.



14. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING 323-327 QUEEN STREET **B** **II**

The Sunday School Union Building dates from 1925, and was originally the headquarters of a co-operative of six protestant Sunday Schools which affiliated to form a union in 1865 to train teachers and act as a resource for rural areas.

Offices, lecture rooms and the bookshop are still used. The plaques on the outside read 'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God' (Luke 12:31) and "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

15.



15. QUEENS HEAD HOTEL FAÇADE 404 QUEEN STREET **II**

The Queens Head pub was built in 1868 by Henry Adams. It fell victim to "façadism" – an architectural aberration of the 1980s – which preserved the historic façade and built a modern mirror glass building behind.

If you're feeling fit and want to see two of the oldest cottages in the city, cross to the southern side of Mayoral Drive, walk along and turn right into Airedale Street. Continue up the hill till opposite the small houses at No. 30 Airedale St.

16.



16. AIREDALE STREET HOUSES 30 AIREDALE STREET **B I**

Built by Thomas Rusden, a stone mason, the earliest part of these cottages dates from 1856. They are a rare example of early workers' houses in central Auckland. The cottages remained domestic dwellings until late in the 1940s when commercial development expanded into the inner city residential area. There has been a variety of uses: in the 1970s as an art gallery and in the 1980s as "The Corporal's Restaurant".

Retrace your steps back to Queen Street, and continue down the western side.

17. MLC BUILDING 380 QUEEN STREET **B II**

The Building Progress magazine of April 1957 headed the article on this building 'Majestic'. Built for the Mutual Life Corporation, it was the tallest building in Auckland occupying an important triangular corner site opposite the Town Hall. It was the first major office building erected in the business heart of the city since 1940 and marked the beginning of an era of greater confidence and growth.

The site had previously been occupied by a famous dinner-dance venue "Trocadero" which had been popular with American servicemen and their 'gals' in the high-living days of World War II.

17.



18. METHODIST CHURCH CORNER QUEEN AND WAKEFIELD STREETS

This site was gifted to the Primitive Methodists by Governor Grey and the first church was built here in 1851. The Methodist Mission continues to serve the spiritual and practical needs of the city with 38,000 meals and 1300 food parcels provided to those in need from this site during the past year alone. In addition to regular church services, the Chapel is used by a wide range of community groups including the NZ Peace Foundation and Nuclear Free NZ who have met here annually for 20 years. The present church dates from 1963.



Cross Queen Street and turn right into Rutland Street.



19. SENIOR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION BUILDING 66-70 LORNE STREET **B II**

The art deco façades of this building present polychromatic patterns and geometrical textures in the brickwork. Its varied history has included belonging to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand, a car showroom and garage and a factory for whiteware. Between 1930 and 1952 the Peter Pan Cabaret was in part of the building, popular with GIs during the Second World War and later as a venue for school balls. In 1956 it became the Office of State Advances, later the Housing Corporation and Housing New Zealand. Since the mid-1990s it has been the Senior College of Education.

Turn left into Lorne Street

20.



20. PUBLIC LIBRARY LORNE STREET

The first library in Auckland was at the Mechanics Institute, a small wooden building in Chancery Street, in 1842. In 1880 the collection was taken over by the Auckland City Council and became the first public library in New Zealand. With the donation of Sir George Grey's considerable collection it became necessary to have a purpose-built building. What is now the Auckland City Art Gallery was opened in March 1887 as the Library, Art Gallery and Municipal Buildings. The present library dates from 1971 and was designed by City Council architect Euan Wainscott. It houses valuable collections of photographs, maps and documents. The Auckland City Archive is in the basement and is also open to the public.

21. ST. JAMES THEATRE LORNE STREET/314 QUEEN STREET **A I**

The St James Theatre was built by vaudeville pioneers Fullers Ltd to replace their opera house which had burned down in 1926. While it was designed for vaudeville, with the introduction of 'talkies' the theatre was wired for sound in 1929. The theatre and foyers are decorated in Spanish Mission style. Patrons were entertained by piano playing in the foyer during interval and its own newsreels, entitled 'The St James Airmail Review'. After World War II the live shows returned with musicals, Royal Variety and the New Zealand Ballet Company. In the 1990s it became a dance party venue and continues to be used for live performances.

21.



Cross Wellesley Street, go up to Kitchener Street.

22.



22. NEW GALLERY (FORMER TELEPHONE EXCHANGE) 38 LORNE STREET **II**

The buildings on the corner of Wellesley and Lorne Streets were the subject of a forward-thinking renovation in the early 1990s. Named The New Gallery, the former Auckland Central Telephone Exchange was transformed into a gallery for contemporary art with and spaces for dealer galleries. With larger spaces for touring exhibitions, an artist's project space, and learning facilities, the New Gallery makes art accessible to a wide range of people.

The two buildings date from 1917 and 1926 respectively; they housed the main switching exchange for Auckland. In the days before automatic switching, hundreds of operators were employed.

23. ST JAMES APARTMENTS 28 WELLESLEY STREET EAST **II**

Now apartments, this building was constructed in 1910 for the YMCA (Young Mens Christian Association). It was designed by Alexander Wiseman who also designed the Ferry Building. It contained a gym, dining room, billiard room, snack bar, lounges, reading room, piano, radio, table tennis, concert hall, chapel and hostel. The YMCA ran programmes for servicemen during World War II. By 1955 it had become too small, with up to 1500 young people crowding the building each week and a new, larger YMCA complex in Pitt street was built in its place.

23.



A group of soldiers and civilians
outside the YMCA Building in
Wellesley Street East in 1916.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1593.

24. AUCKLAND ART GALLERY 1 KITCHENER STREET **A** **I**

In choosing this hillside corner site, the City Council proposed a building worthy of the growing city and the important collections donated by Sir George Grey and James Mackelvie. The design brief called for a multi-use building to hold the public library, art gallery and council offices. A design competition was won by Melbourne architects Grainger and D'Ebro. The winning design was this impressive French chateau-style building which opened in 1887. The building is now entirely devoted to art and contains the most extensive collection of national and international art in New Zealand.

24.

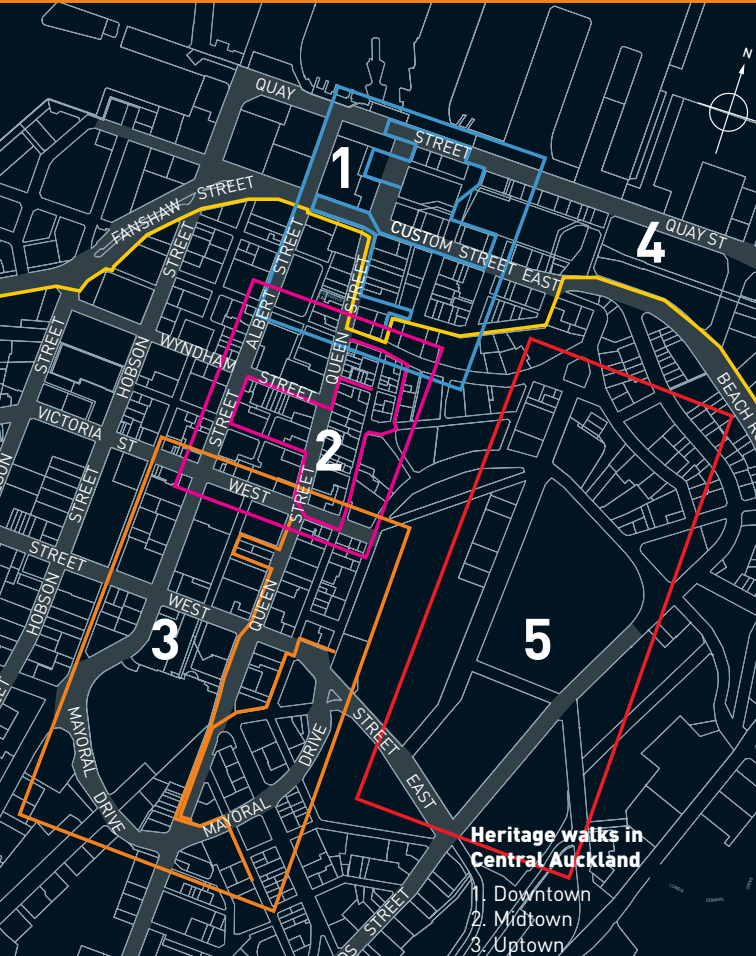


View of the Auckland Art Gallery in 1920.

AUCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, W1689.

In loving memory of **Di Stewart**, who instigated the preparation of new heritage walks for Auckland, and was a committed and energetic campaigner for heritage protection in this city.

Privacy: These walks are along public roads and contain historical information about buildings and places in the area, most of which are private property. Please respect the environment and privacy of local businesses and owners.



Heritage walks in Central Auckland

- 1. Downtown
- 2. Midtown
- 3. Uptown
- 4. Original Foreshore
- 5. Princes St University Quarter