



Heritage Trails



NAPIER HILL DRIVE

With Optional Walks



View from Clyde Road Lookout

HAWKE'S BAY

the Real
Discover / Hawke's Bay

THE NAPIER HILL

Geologists say that the hill was once a peninsula, an extension of the hills to the west of the city across the Inner Harbour. During the last million years, a coastal plain advanced and receded, and at some time the peninsula's tip became separated.

When Maori settlers first arrived in the 13th century, the island which they called Mataruahou had become linked again to the mainland by long spits of shingle which is constantly carried down from the mountains by the four rivers which discharge nearby. The spits enclosed a huge salt-water lagoon called Ahuriri which was a fertile source of seafood for Maori and an important marine breeding ground for the East Coast.

Cook's journal mentioned that the outlet of the lagoon was to the north, near Bay View. It's believed that later a new outlet was dug by Maori in its present position when the old outlet became blocked.

In 1850, Donald (later Sir Donald) McLean, Chief Land Purchase Commissioner, arrived to acquire land for European settlement. The 265,000 acre (2230 hectare) Ahuriri Block, one of three he purchased for the Crown in 1851, included Mataruahou or 'Scinde Island' as it was soon to be named by Alfred Domett who arrived in 1854 as Commissioner of Crown Lands and Resident Magistrate. Domett proposed Indian names or the names of British heroes in India for a number of places and streets in and around Napier, as well as the names of literary giants.

The survey of Napier took place from 1852 to 1854, with the first sale of sections in April 5 1855. Sales were slow at first because in the words of a report of 1860, Napier was *"a precipitous island of barren, uninhabited ridges, dissected by gorges and ravines, with a narrow strip of shingle skirting the cliffs, and joined to the mainland south by a five mile shingle bank...A hopeless spot for a town"*.

Early photographs show the hill as bare and treeless, possibly because it has no natural water and rainfall quickly drains away. But today it is a lush garden suburb commanding superb views in all directions. The swamps and shingle banks around it have been eliminated, first by reclamation in the 1900s and later by the two metre upheaval of the 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake, giving the city the room it needed for expansion.

The earliest subdivisions on the hill created huge properties on the tops, where there were views, and tiny sections in the gullies. Over the decades, the larger properties have been subdivided again and again, with the result that the hill now contains a mix of architectural styles from the 1860s to the present day.

This drive has been designed to show you the hill's history, its homes and gardens and its variety of views and vistas. But there is more to see than we can show you here. You can explore other streets in your own time, once you have discovered the delights of the hill.

NAPIER HILL DRIVE

(2-2½ hours excluding optional walks)

The time above includes time spent leaving the car to experience views but does not include the longer walks which you may choose to take.

The 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake is referred to in the text as 'the Quake'.

When starting your drive, use the Napier i-SITE (Information Centre) as your orientation point. Head north along the Marine Parade past Te Pania Hotel and veer left up Coote Road. On your right are -

1) DRILL HALL where generations of Napier men signed up for service in the Anglo - Boer War and the First and Second World Wars.

2) CENTENNIAL GARDENS, created in 1974 to commemorate the centennial of Napier's constitution as a borough in 1874. They were built on the site of the prison quarry, where the "shell-rock" limestone (so called because of the fossil shells it contains) was obtained for many stone walls and chimneys on the hill and further afield. The man-made waterfall which recycles water from the pool to the cliff-top has created a micro-climate that enables lush foliage to sprout from what was once a dry and barren limestone face.

On your left -

3) OLD NAPIER PRISON *You can drive or walk up to the front gate but take care crossing the speed humps.* Empty for over a decade, it re-opened in 2002 as a backpackers' lodge. You can drive up the driveway and have a close look at the stone wall. The different patterns of the stonework reflect the work of different prisoners. The stone came from the prison quarry across the road. The slope below the prison, facing Coote Road, was once a vegetable garden tended by the prisoners, who also worked in private gardens around the hill until the 1950s. Later in the drive you will have a good view of the prison complex from the opposite hill.

Continue along Coote Road to the intersection (Noting No 31, a charming victorian house) and turn left. At the corner, note the -

4) CORNER SHOP. It's the only remaining corner grocery shop on the hill still operating. There were once ten.

Turn left again at the crest of Shakespeare Road and follow Clyde Road to Onslow Road, on your right. Park your car in Onslow Road near the Cyclone wire fence, get out and admire the view over the city.

5) ONSLOW ROAD Look over to your right and you'll see a striking quartet of Tudor Revival style houses on Shakespeare Terrace.

Look at the photograph below, taken from close to this spot.



View over the business area from Onslow Road, 1876

6) VIEW OVER CITY CENTRE The building in the centre is the Provincial Council Chambers. At that time, New Zealand had provincial government, with each province being self-governed. This changed to the present system of central government in 1876, the year of this photograph. To its left is the post office, which was moved to its present site in 1930, part of the drift south-west of Napier's business area as it follows the general direction of Napier's population growth which moves towards Taradale.

Looking at the scene today, the large 1970s building against the hill is the former McLean State Building, named after Sir Douglas McLean. Across the bay you can see Cape Kidnappers, and to the south, beyond Havelock North, are two prominent hills, Te Mata Peak with its tilted side and the great mass of Kahuranaki. This area, and indeed all of Hawke's Bay, is of great interest to geologists, lying as it does on the boundary between the Pacific and Indo/Australian plates. Looking at this view, it is easy to see why Napier had become known as "The Nice of the South Pacific" by the turn of the century.

OPTIONAL WALK You can either drive on or leave the car here and take a 15 minute walk around the loop of Clyde Rd, Hukarere Rd, Hadfield Tce and Gladstone Rd, returning to Clyde Rd. Either way, turn right into Clyde Rd and continue straight ahead.

7) BEN LOMOND is a Victorian mansion which was enlarged and remodelled in 1871 for E W Knowles, an early proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Napier's newspaper until 1999 when it merged with the Hastings paper to become *Hawke's Bay Today*. The Victorian fashion for fret-work and cast iron ornament is well illustrated. Note the 'widow's walk' on the roof.

8) CLYDE ROAD LOOKOUT A little further along, a look-out platform gives another view over the city. If you look directly below, you will see the Brewster Street Ramp leading down to the business area. It is one of the many pedestrian walkways on the hill.



9) CLUDEN BANK is the large house at No 24. It was purchased for use as the second *Bishopscourt* from John Close, an early Napier draper whose business *Neal & Close* stood on the site where the ASB Bank now stands. The grounds of *Bishopscourt* sloped down to Brewster Street, and were subdivided in the 1920s, from when the houses in this valley date.

Turn left into -

10) HUKARERE ROAD, once the domain of the Williams family. William Williams, first Bishop of Waiapu, visited Napier in 1833 and moved here in 1865 when the settlement of Waerenga-a-Hika, north of Gisborne was endangered by Maori action. He brought with him the administration of the diocese, which is why Napier Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Waiapu. On the right was the first *Hukarere Maori Girls' School*, which he founded in 1875 to complement Te Aute College, the school for Maori boys in central Hawke's Bay. *Hukarere* was destroyed by fire in 1910 and was rebuilt in Napier Terrace. Bishop William Williams' house, the first *Bishopscourt*, was where Nos 1, 3 and 5 stand. The houses which you see today were part of a development undertaken by W L Atherfold, a prominent Napier builder, around 1940.



11) No 9 & 11 HUKARERE RD Later, Williams' sons Leonard (third Bishop of Waiapu) and Frederick (co-founder of the stock firm of Williams & Kettle Ltd) built houses here.

Continue left into Hadfield Terrace. Before you reach the next corner, look across to your right.

12) SITE OF OLD CHILDREN'S HOME. Behind the Spanish style house across the Coote Road gully is a massive retaining wall. This was built to create a flat site for *Randall House*, a children's home which was demolished in the 1960s.

13) CARRIAGE HOUSE In Gladstone Rd, at the top of the rise on your left is a quaint little building, built as a carriage house for Bishop Williams whose property reached this far. It is now a Bed & Breakfast. From this point on you will see a number of Art Deco style houses built in the late 1930s and early 1940s. These are part of the Atherfold development.

14) No 6 GLADSTONE ROAD Opposite No 7, an Art Deco house which has recently had a top floor added, is No 6, one of the oldest houses on the hill.

When you return to Clyde Road, veer right if you're driving or return to your car if you're walking and drive back along Clyde Road the way you came, passing -

15) NAPIER GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL which occupies both sides of the road. As the school has expanded, some house properties have been acquired and demolished, and a subway has been built under the road to provide safe access for the students. The Boys' High School and its boarding hostel, Scinde House,

was opened here in 1872. In 1926, the Boys' High School moved to its present site at Te Awa, at the southern end of Napier, and a new brick girls' school in Stripped Classical style rose on the hostel site.

The building on your right is new, and incorporates a floor of car-parking for staff. Not many schools have their own parking building. Further on, on the left, is the Administration Block. This is where the new brick building was being erected at the time of the Quake. It was almost finished when the Quake struck, damaging it, and it was demolished and replaced by a building identical in design except that it was built of timber. It was refurbished in 1998.

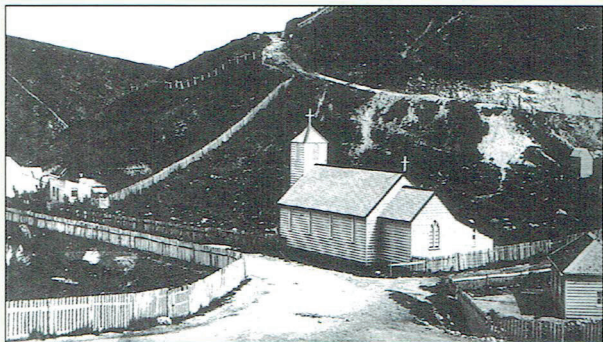
As you start to descend the slope, you'll pass the entrance to the girls' boarding hostel. At the western side of the building, above the retaining wall, is an imposing Art Deco staircase which unfortunately can only be seen from a few distant points on the hill.

16) MORNINGTON As you drive down Clyde Road to the busy Shakespeare Road intersection, look across at the variety of house styles. Prominent because of its massive 'shell-rock' limestone foundations is *Mornington*, a Californian bungalow built in 1921 and a splendid example of the work of the architect Louis Hay (1881-1947), one of Napier's reconstruction architects.

At Shakespeare Road turn right and drive down, noting on the skyline -

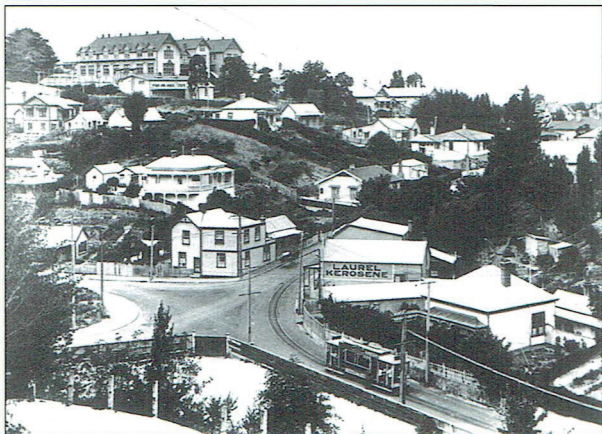
17) SACRED HEART COLLEGE On the skyline above you as you approach the intersection at the saddle is Sacred Heart College, the Catholic secondary school for girls which serves Napier and Hastings. Many of its buildings are new, some of them built to replace a fire which destroyed part of the school in 2001.

18) SHAKESPEARE ROAD JUNCTION Between Convent Road and Shakespeare Road stood St Mary's Chapel, built in 1859 for the 65th Regiment. Later it became the Marist Brothers' School. The main body of the building was moved several times and is now used as an antique shop called Copperfields at Pakowhai.



St Mary's Chapel c1860

Across the Shakespeare Rd junction and just a little way up France Road, turn left into Convent Road. Turn at the top and on the way back down, pause and look over towards the Girls' High School to see the view in the photograph below, taken when the trams were running. The Boys' High School is on the skyline and the corner shop looks the same as it does today.



Shakespeare Road, c 1915

Continue, veering left into France Road and noting the fine stand of cedar trees on the side of France Road. Keep left at the next two intersections and you'll find yourself in Thompson Road beside the water tower. Continue down Thompson Road, past some interesting homes.

19) No 106, on your right, is reminiscent of Tudor revival style and was designed in 1900 as an extension and remodelling of a smaller house by Charles Tilleard Natusch, who designed many large houses in Wellington, Manawatu and Hawke's Bay.

20) No 109, on your left, is a fine example of a mid-Victorian Gothic design with a verandah on three sides. Contrast it with the spare styling of the 1950s house at No 119.

21) ART NOUVEAU GATE Further down, on your right, an imposing fence is evidence of the size of one of the original properties. One of the two original entrances, at No 134, still has its Art Nouveau wrought iron gate. The modern houses in this area are of the 1970s and 1980s.

Continue down, veering right, and see why this is called Napier's dress-circle. At the tee intersection, enjoy the view and then turn around and return to the water tower. Turn left and then right a moment later into Lighthouse Road. Continue on and down to the bottom of the sloping section. Here you

can choose whether to drive up to the Bluff Hill Lookout or leave your car and walk up via Sturm's Gully.

22) STURM'S GULLY Enter through the white gates at the bottom of the slope. An information board will tell you about Frederick Sturm, after whom this gully is named. Walk down the gully until you come to the remains of a tennis court, then turn up to your right and follow the walkway until you reach the top.

23) BLUFF HILL LOOKOUT From here you can enjoy spectacular views across Hawke Bay to Mahia Peninsula, along the sweep of the northern coastline and down over the Port of Napier. A lookout has been constructed on the remains of a gun emplacement built during World War II to protect Napier against possible invaders. There are toilets here.



Port of Napier, 1895

If you walked, then return to your car by walking down the roadway from the lookout. Return by car up to the top of the slope of Lighthouse Road. Elizabeth Road is worth exploring but turning is sometimes difficult so you may prefer to park in Lighthouse Road and walk the short distance.

24) 6 ELIZABETH ROAD was originally Maraenui, a house designed by C T Natusch, then a private hospital and now a house again.

25) HUSHEER HOUSES At the end of the road are three houses, remodelled in the 1920s by Louis Hay for Gerhard Husheer, founder of the National Tobacco Company. All three houses were originally older, single storeyed houses.

No 10 (now "The Master's Lodge") was Husheer's own house, No 12 (*Cliff House*) was his servants' quarters, and No 14 (*Waimarie*) was his guest house. Hay's interesting gate and garage details and the extensive lead-light glazing of No 10 are worth looking at.

The photo below shows these three houses just after the Quake, which caused part of the hill to slip away.



Elizabeth Road from the air, 1931 (Arnold Wright Collection).

Return to Lighthouse Road and turn left. You'll almost immediately come to Priestley Road - drive down and around the bend into Priestley Terrace. You can turn at the end and return to Lighthouse Road, pausing just before the right angle bend in the road to look across to your left.

26) OLD NAPIER PRISON From here you can get a bird's eye view of the prison. The house with the hipped roof is on the site of the old Lunatic Asylum which was a part of the prison complex. Beyond the prison, on the site of the green-roofed house nearest to the cliff edge, a lighthouse stood from 1874 until the 1950s. It's visible in the photo below.



The prison and Marine Parade c1890. Construction of the sea wall and the roadway is taking place.

Continue on to Lighthouse Road and turn left. At the end of Lighthouse Road, turn right into Seapoint Road and wind down to the bottom of the hill. You'll get glimpses of the Port of Napier and Hawke Bay, and see a variety of houses, many clinging to the steep slope of the hill.

At the bottom of Seapoint Road, drive to the left of the old Tram Shelter and turn left into Shakespeare Road. A little way up, on your left -

27) No 181 SHAKESPEARE RD This is a very old home, built for the 65th Regiment in the 1860s, and its age shows in the simplicity of its details compared with the more ornate late Victorian villas nearby. There are several more very old houses in Shakespeare Road, one of Napier's earliest streets. No 101 was the Scinde Police Station from 1906 to 1912.

Carry on to the junction with Coote Road and turn right, continuing up Shakespeare Road. When you reach the crest, veer right into narrow Sealy Road, taking care at the intersection. Drive carefully up Sealy Road, as parked cars often make passing difficult, taking special care at the sharp bend. At the top of the rise, on your left -

28) CLAYBRAE (No 7 Sealy Rd) is a very fine Victorian Gothic house' although the windows have been modernised.

Around the next bend on your right is -

29) No 2 SEALY ROAD which was Napier's first hospital. It was built by the Hawke's Bay Provincial Council and was used until 1880 when a typhoid epidemic made it necessary to take over the Old Barracks, which you'll hear more about later.

Continue straight ahead into Lincoln Road, passing on your right -

30) GLEN LYON (No19) was built in 1870 and was for a time the Hillcrest Old Men's Home. The roadway, hard against the side of the house, was once the driveway to the property. The wife of the second owner, Mrs H F Butcher, was the first person to drive a car over the Taupo Road. In 1904 she drove a 1902 Oldsmobile to Rotorua, a two day trip which was an amazing feat given the primitive condition of the road in those days.

Continue past a substantial shell-rock wall on your left to the roundabout and turn left into Roslyn Road. Parking is difficult in this area so why not take stroll? Leave your car here, go back to the roundabout and walk down Fitzroy Road past several fine bungalows The first is No 26 at the corner, then further on there are two more.

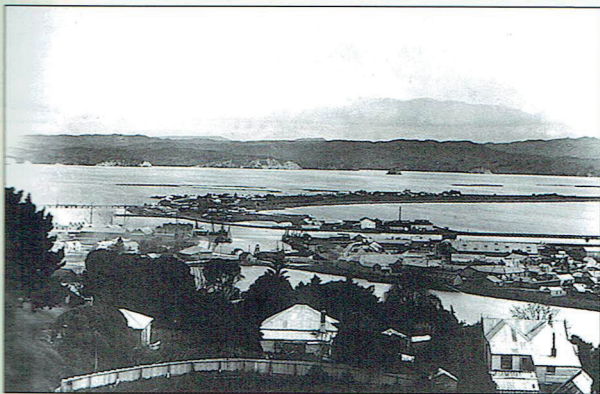
31) LOUIS HAY BUNGALOWS Nos 30 and 32 are Louis Hay designs of 1914 and 1918, built for two sisters who shared a tennis court at the rear. They have all the hallmarks of Californian bungalow design - rough-cast plaster, clay-tiled roofs pitched lower than their Victorian villa predecessors and side-hung casement windows. There's plenty of shell-rock to be seen.



You can walk down as far as you feel inclined. If you keep right when the road forks, Bay View Rd will take you to the top of the steps down to Shakespeare Road with a view over Ahuriri. When you return, continue uphill on Roslyn Road then take a slightly different route staying on Roslyn Road when it veers right.

32) ROSLYN ROAD 'BRIDGE' This part of Roslyn Road has been blocked off to vehicular traffic but it is safe to stand on the concrete 'bridge' and look down. Amners' lime works once quarried the site below, carving the cliff back from almost the edge of Milton Road. In the Quake, the quarry draught horse took fright and galloped non-stop to the top of Milton Road where it dropped dead. Slipping of the cliff face caused by the Quake made it obvious that there was no room for further excavation and the 'bridge' was built to safeguard access to the houses on Roslyn Road. Amners moved to Pakipaki, south of Hastings. During World War II the site below became an oil storage depot, thought to be safe from attack from the sea. The oil tanks were removed in the early 1980s and in 1992 what was probably the last major housing development on the hill began.

Before you leave, look across to the old Inner Harbour, and compare it with the photo below of the same scene taken at the turn of the 20th century.



The Inner Harbour from Roslyn Road, 1901.

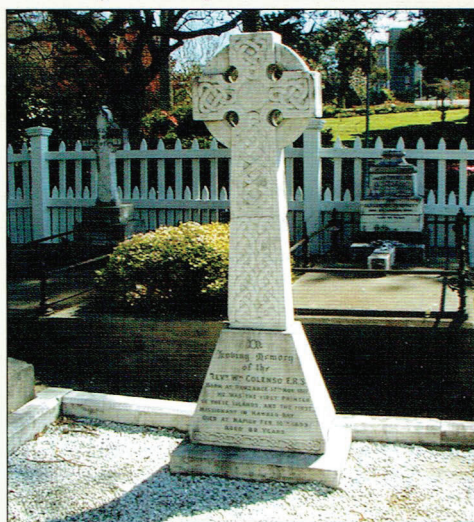
Continue on to your car. Drive back along Lincoln Road and turn right into Harvey Road, descending to the intersection with Milton Road. Cross over and veer left into Napier Terrace, and continue to -

33) NAPIER CENTRAL SCHOOL was built in 1922 to replace Napier Main School, at the bottom of Milton Road, which had burned down in 1916. This site was where the Rev William Marshall, Napier's first school master, had built an *Academy for Young Gentlemen* in 1863. A year later it was named Napier Grammar School, of which more later.



Left to right, top to bottom:

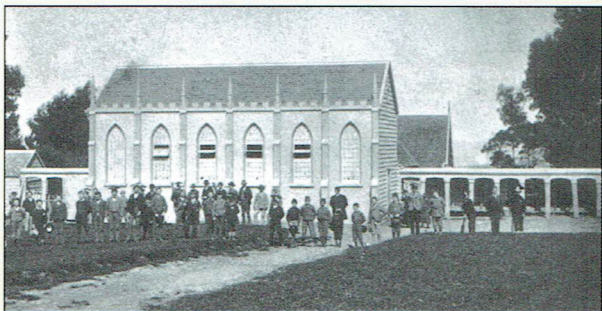
Old Napier Prison; Central School entrance in Napier Terrace; Gate Road; Napier Girls' High School Administration Block; Art Nouveau Ben Lomond in Clyde Road; Colenso's grave in Napier Cemetery; Entrance gates to Napier Cemetery; View from Hospital Tce.





to Waimarie in Elizabeth
gate in Thompson Road;
Burns Road in autumn;





Napier Grammar School, c1865.

Central School's new brick buildings were damaged in the Quake and had to be demolished, replaced in 1931 by the wooden school you see today. Note the main entrance with its sundial and pergola designed by Louis Hay in 1927.

Turn left into Kipling Avenue. On your left you'll see the only remaining brick building of the pre-earthquake school. Sweep to your left into Colenso Avenue and continue down. Just past the school, the 1930s houses on your left were built on land sub-divided from the home of Sir Donald McLean, and later of his son Sir Douglas. Their house stood where Randall Place is, off Napier Terrace. From the 1930s, it was used as a children's home, replacing the older Randall House in Priestley Terrace, mentioned earlier.

Around the bend look for -

34) NO 10 COLENZO AVENUE is the property once owned by William Colenso, missionary, explorer, botanist parliamentarian and the first permanent European settler in Napier. (To learn more about this brilliant man, visit the Hawke's Bay Museum). This house was built on the floor of Colenso's home after he died in 1899, and so was not lived in by him, but beside it you can see a tiny cottage, part of which was his home when he first moved to this address. Most of the houses on this side of the street were built when his property was sub-divided after his death, and the sloping hill-side behind them was once the site of a nine-hole golf course.

Continue on to the next bend and stop. Leave your car for a moment and look over the fence at -

35) VIEW OVER NAPIER From here you have a good view of the western end of Napier's central business district, and beyond over Napier South. The sweep of the railway line marks the edge of dry land in the 1870s when the railway was built. Alongside the track lay the Tutaekuri River, and beyond that the swamps which were to be reclaimed in the early years of the 20th century, as far as Georges Drive.





View over Napier South c1910

Carry on, but instead of going down the steep slope, veer right then hard right down Hooker Avenue. Then wind up through the trees till you find yourself back below Central School. Take a hard left and return up Kipling Ave to Napier Terrace where you should turn left. Look on your right for -

36) Nos 35 & 37 NAPIER TCE Note the two small cottages here. There are a number of these still left on the hill, mostly in the gullies where small lots were formed by excavating for fill, creating small terraced building sites. On them were placed these small cottages, transported from their original sites in the business area by traction engine, as Napier's expansion required more space in Emerson, Tennyson and Dickens Streets.

And on your left for -

37) HUKARERE MAORI GIRLS' SCHOOL was established in Hukarere Road by Bishop William Williams in 1875 and moved to this site in 1912. The chapel was opened in 1953. Many distinguished Maori women have been educated here. At the time of writing the school is closed for redevelopment and the pupils are temporarily based at Eskdale, north of Napier.

Turn right into Selwyn Road.

38) No 1A SELWYN RD, second from the corner, was the home of spiritualist, poet and writer V May Cottrell, who revived the legend of Pania of the Reef in the 1940s. The bronze statue of Pania on the Marine Parade was installed in 1954 to commemorate this legend. Selwyn Road was named after Bishop Selwyn and some of the land on your left is leasehold land, belonging to the Anglican Church.

Carry on to the end of the straight section, and you will have reached the first bend, where the road once ended.

39) COLEMAN TERRACE Here were the gates of the large estate of J H Coleman, whose house was one of the finest

Italianate style houses in New Zealand. Coleman acquired this property when he married Mrs Hannah Watt. He had acted as trustee for the estate of her husband, James Watt who owned this house and Longlands Station, south of Hastings, and the couple then lived here, from where he supervised the operation of the station. The house stood on the site of No 25 and had a fine view over the Inner Harbour – you can experience a fragment of it by looking over No 2.



J H Coleman's residence, c1920.

After Coleman's death in 1929, the house was demolished and Coleman Terrace was formed. Although many of the properties which were created have spectacular views, it was over 20 years before they were all sold, for depression and war discouraged purchase. So the houses on either side, from here to the bottom of the slope, are representative of the domestic building styles of the 1930s and 1940s, including the two storeyed English cottage style with its steep pitched roofs. Several of the houses were designed by Louis Hay – No's 9, 15, 22a, 26, 27, 28 and 30. As you descend the hill, you'll get a fine view north over Hawke Bay, enhanced by the absence of power and telephone lines which were finally eliminated from the hill streets in the early 1980s.

As you near the end of the slope, you can look down on Amner Place, the site of the old Amner's Lime Works, referred to when you were in Roslyn Road, now visible across the gully. At the bottom of the incline is a flat area which was the site of the Napier Lawn Tennis Club until the 1920s.

Turn right and park your car in Lambton Road for another short walk, turning left into -

40) MILTON TERRACE At the corner of Lambton Road and Milton Terrace is No 2 Milton Terrace. It's brick lower storey was built in 1940 as one of his family homes by building contractor William Angus, the father of famous New Zealand painter Rita Angus. It was on bus journeys from Wellington to visit her parents here in the 1950s that Rita made the sketches which she would later develop into the 'Hawke's Bay series' of landscapes which are mostly held in various public collections around the country. 'Hawke's Bay Churches' is in the collection of the Hawke's Bay Museum.

Milton Terrace was laid out in 1870, with 7 large residential sections. Today, there are 17 houses in the street and only one of

the original houses, No 13, remains. This was the home of Captain Bower, Napier's first Town Clerk, and later of the architect Louis Hay who designed and had built the garage and brick walls of Nos 11 and 13, then one property. The extensive landscaping was in preparation for the construction of his own house, where No 11 stands, but his plans were thwarted by the Second World War and he died soon after it ended.

You can walk down as far as the top of the steps which lead down to Milton Road. Steps like these were used by hill residents in the early days when it was more convenient to walk to Ahuriri to shop than to walk to town. Later, it was even more convenient to walk down and catch a tram, for they ran over Shakespeare Road into town.

Return to your car and wind down to Lambton Road to Burns Road, passing -

41) HUSHEER CARPORT, a charming carport/garage designed around 1930 by Louis Hay for Ingolf Husheer, son of Gerhard, whose house above once only had access from this point.

At the bottom turn left into Burns Road and wind up through the trees to Napier Terrace. At the corner, on your left, is -

42) OLD BISHOPSCOURT This was originally the home of Dr Spencer, a prominent early doctor and mayor of Napier. Later it became Napier's fifth residence of the Bishop of Waiapu.

Turn right into Napier Terrace. As you pass Ormond Road, on your left, you'll see -

43) BUNGALOWS In Ormond Road, starting at the corner, is a fine group of 1920s Californian bungalows.

44) ORMOND CHAPEL, a small Anglican church which was originally Napier Grammar School on the Central School site, mentioned earlier. It was purchased by Miss Fanny Ormond when the site was allocated for the new Central School in 1922, moved here and gifted to the Church. It is a good example of Victorian Gothic, and it is fascinating to reflect on the tiny pioneer township of Napier (population only a few hundred at that time) proudly erecting such an ornate building for its first school.

Continue on to the Botanical Gardens, where you should have no trouble finding a car park. Now take a walk through the old Napier Cemetery and the Botanical Gardens.

45) OLD NAPIER CEMETERY Enter through the grand entrance gates, again in Victorian Gothic style, and follow the main walk, passing the graves of many Hawke's Bay pioneers. Much of the damage to the tombstones was caused by the Quake.

The fourth tombstone on your right marks the grave of William Colenso, and a little further on, behind iron railings, are graves of the Williams family, among them the first, third and sixth



Bishops of Waiapu. Close by lie J H and Hannah Coleman and Henry Stokes Tiffen, a relative of Frederick Tiffen who brought the first sheep to the province, driving them up the coast from Wellington to cen.tral Hawke's Bay.



Tombstone, Napier Cemetery.

As you walk, observe the details of the ornate graves and tombstones which demonstrate the rather morbid (or so it seems to us now) attitude of the Victorians to death. Perhaps it was because death was so much a part of life in those times. You will see many symbols of mourning - laurel leaves, broken columns, flowers with broken stems, wreaths, draped and undraped urns, the book of life, lilies and lilies-of-the-valley, passion flowers, doves and others. On some graves, you will see symbols relating to the lives or careers of the deceased, and often their birthplaces in "the old country". The Victorians liked their graves to convey beauty, information and inspiration.

At the end of the wide path is a roundabout containing the graves of members of the Vigor Brown family, which make interesting reading, especially to Australian visitors, and more early Napier identities - Neal and Close, partners in business, and McVay, an early photographer who took fine photographs of local Maori which are now held in the National Library in Wellington.. The grave of Sir Donald McLean is also in this vicinity. Continue clockwise almost around the circle and then head off past the graves of pioneer farmers Donald Gollan of Waipawa and the Hon J D Ormond who was a Hawke's Bay Provincial Councillor, a Hawke's Bay County Councillor, first Chairman of the Hawke's Bay Harbour Board, Member of Parliament and Minister of the Crown. Follow this path back in the direction whence you came till you reach the triangular grave of the two Reverend Connors, father and son.

46) BOTANICAL GARDENS This reserve was created in 1855, and was one of only four Botanical Reserves in New Zealand, in Napier, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. The collection of trees includes many that were brought to Napier from other countries by the captains of sailing ships. The site is

a dry one, but water was available from two wells which had been sunk at the lower end for the 65th Regiment. The wells supplied the water for the soldiers' drinking, washing and laundry needs, and suds, which discharged into an open drain and flowed down to Carlyle Street, gave off unpleasant odours in hot weather, giving the area the nick-name "Soapsuds Gully".

After 1874, when Napier was gazetted as a Borough, the gardens were developed with flower beds and a small zoo, but the advent of the motor car after the First World War meant that their popularity as a place to visit declined.⁵



The Botanical Gardens, 1904.

When you leave the cemetery, you can continue your stroll through the Botanical Gardens. You can decide how long a walk you wish to take, remembering that if you go to the bottom, you'll have to climb back up the slope again. There is a toilet at the bottom of the lawns.

Return to your car. A short distance up Napier Terrace turn right into Chaucer Road North.

47) 115 CHAUCER ROAD (with two lions at the entrance) was formerly *Resthaven Eventide Home*, and before that the fourth (but not the last) *Bishopscourt*. Originally, it was the town residence of the Troutbeck family, who like some other owners of large houses on the hill made extended visits to Napier from their sheep station in the country.

Turn right into George Street then right again into Bracken Street where you can park and walk back to the corner to see the next two points of interest more easily.

48) McHARDY HOUSE is now a tourist lodge but was originally the town house of the McHardy family which then gave it to Hawke's Bay Hospital Board for use as a Maternity Annexe. From the early 1940s until it was closed in 1977, it was *McHardy Home*, where thousands of Napier babies were born.

49) VIGOR BROWN PROPERTY Opposite Bracken Street was the extensive property of John Vigor Brown, Napier's colourful mayor for a number of terms in the early 20th century,

whose family grave you passed in the cemetery. Parts of the original fence remain. The gate to No 6 George Street is the original rear gate and the remains of the front gate are close by at the top of the long drive adjacent to No 28 which now leads down to several houses. The boundary of the original wedge-shaped property ran at right angles from No 6 to the edge of the cliff and followed the cliff-top to the bottom of George Street. The tiled roof house at No 28a, designed by Louis Hay, was the home of John Vigor Brown's son, Charles.

Now return to the car and drive back to Napier Terrace. As you drive up Chaucer Road, not the large building on the ridge to your right. This is Hinepare, of which more shortly. At Napier Terrace, turn right and when you reach the roundabout, you'll be beside -

50) THE FORMER NAPIER HOSPITAL was closed 1998, when the hospital services of Napier and Hastings were combined at the Hawke's Bay Hospital in Hastings, formerly the Hastings Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. By the roundabout, look at the seven storey Hallam Dowling Block. It was on this spot that a new Nurses' Home was opened in 1930, in the fashionable Spanish Mission style. Faulty in both design and construction, it collapsed totally in the Earthquake, killing 16 nurses asleep after being on night duty.



The new Nurses' Home, 1930.



The Nurses' Home, February 1931.



Napier Hospital in 1930, taken from the roof of the Nurses' Home.

Turning left, wind down Spenser Road until you reach the sharp left-hand bend. Turn right here up the hill into Simla Terrace. Go up the hill and turn left into Havelock Road. A short way along, look to your right down a gully to Taradale Road.

51) VIEW OVER TARADALE ROAD Taradale Road was originally built as a causeway across the swamps at the northern end of the Inner Harbour. It was known as a 'corduroy road' because the technique involved laying logs on the mud and building up the carriageway on top of them with rock and gravel. Today it is still one of the main routes between Napier and the major suburbs of Greenmeadows and Taradale (once a separate borough) and other more recent suburbs which have been built between - Marewa, Onekawa, Pirimai and Tamatea.



Taradale Road before 1900.

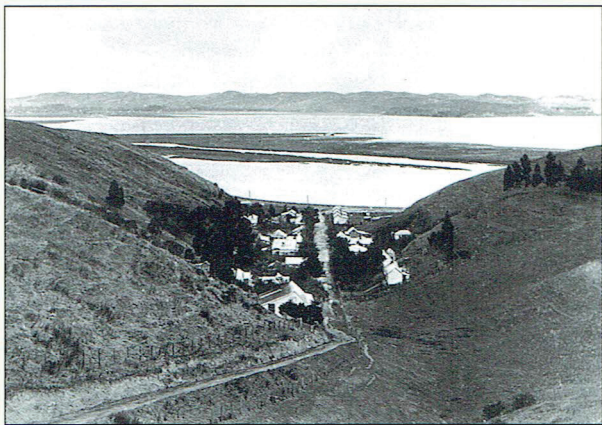
Continue a little further along Havelock Road to the top of the steep section for a view over Napier South. Turn at Delhi Road. Return to Simla Avenue, turn left and continue on to the end where you will get a different view of suburban Napier.

52) VIEW OVER PREBENSEN DRIVE This view overlooks Prebensen Drive, a road built in the early 1990s to provide a

faster route to Tamatea and Taradale. Beyond it is the Onekawa Industrial Area, established in the early 1950s. Over to the right is the Hawke's Bay Expressway, which runs from the Hawke's Bay Airport at Westshore to the Hawke's Bay Hospital at Hastings and will eventually extend to Pakipaki, south of Hastings.

Drive back up the slope and follow Spenser Road back up past the Botanical Gardens. On your way up, look for the concrete terrace just beyond the intersection with Main Street. Pull into there and park for a moment.

53) VIEW OVER CORUNNA BAY From here you can look down Main Street, oddly named because it is probably the steepest and certainly one of the narrowest roads in Napier. But it was once just that – Napier's first street, leading from Corunna Bay, where Alexander Alexander established his general store in 1846, up to the Barracks on the site of the Hospital, where the 65th and other regiments were based from 1858 to 1867. The view down Main Street includes the Hospital Boiler House (1981) and the former Napier Woollen Mills, and part of the Inner Harbour, exactly where in 1932 Napier's first aerodrome was established and visited soon afterwards by Charles Kingsford-Smith and his *Southern Cross*, the first plane to cross the Tasman. It was from there that the first commercial flights out of Napier, to Gisborne, departed.



Main Street c1870s.

Drive back up to the roundabout and take a left turn into Hospital Terrace and follow it past the top of Goldsmith Road. You'll find a parking bay on your right opposite the last multi-storey hospital building. Park there and look at the view over Ahuriri, Westshore and the Inner Harbour.

NOTE: *A planned housing development on the slope below this lookout may mean that you will need to find another vantage point further down Hospital Terrace.*



View over Ahuriri and Westshore, c1880.

54) HOSPITAL HILL LOOKOUT From here you will have a view over Ahuriri, Westshore and the Inner Harbour. Compare it with the photograph above showing how it once looked and you will see how many changes have taken place in this historic part of Napier. Much of the dry land you see now was once water, and the playing field down to your left is still known as the South Pond and was only reclaimed in the 1950s. The small wooden wool-store by West Quay, where the fishing trawlers are moored, was Williams & Kettle's first store, built before the saw-tooth roof design was introduced by C T Natusch.

The sweep of land at Westshore, which is built on what was once a narrow strip of dry land separating the Inner Harbour from the Pacific Ocean, was formed by the deposit of river-borne shingle carried up the coast from the rivers to the south. At its end is the entrance to the old harbour, through which the lagoon drained when it was uplifted over two metres (seven feet) by the Quake. Soon the exposed land was criss-crossed by drainage channels to drain the salt from the soil. As you can see, it is now very fertile land and is partly farmed and partly used as the Hawke's Bay Airport.

Return up the slope, passing Goldsmith Road

55) GOLDSMITH ROAD This is one of the steepest roads on the hill, with judder bars to slow over-enthusiastic drivers. It was in this vicinity that the kitchen of the 65th Regiment was built, with bake ovens set into the hillside. The photograph of the barracks on top of the hill shows the route of Goldsmith Road, and also the barren nature of the hill in the early days of settlement.



The Barracks, 1860s.

Continue to the roundabout, parking on your left beside -

56) HINEPARE This large building was built in 1952 as a Nurses' Home, but now provides long-term accommodation for the public. It is Napier's largest example of the severe Post-war Modernist style. The architect was Lawrence Williams, son of E A Williams who designed many of Napier's reconstruction buildings.

A short walk down Sixty Fifth Street, named after the 65th Regiment, provides an interesting view of Ahuriri and beyond.

57) NAPIER TERRACE Standing outside Hinepare, look to your left. Picture the scene here on February 3 1931, when the roadway and the flat lawn in the Botanical Gardens were jammed with beds as doctors and nurses tried to cope with the stream of cars and lorries bringing injured and dying people from the earthquake and fire-ravaged central city and from other parts of the town to their hospital, unaware that it was wrecked and unusable.



Napier Terrace, 3 February 1931.

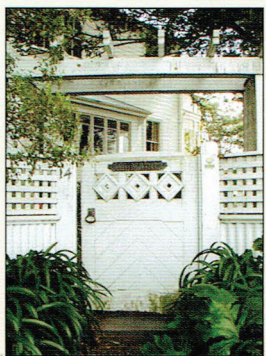
That's the end of your hill drive. You can return to town by driving left along Napier Terrace until you reach the crest of Milton Road. Turn right and go down to Memorial Square.



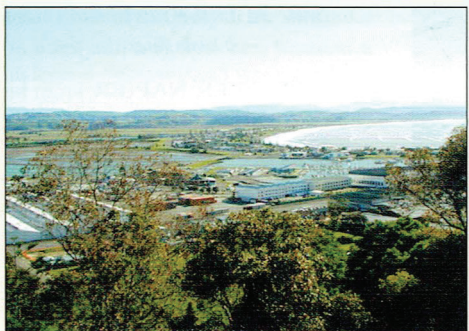
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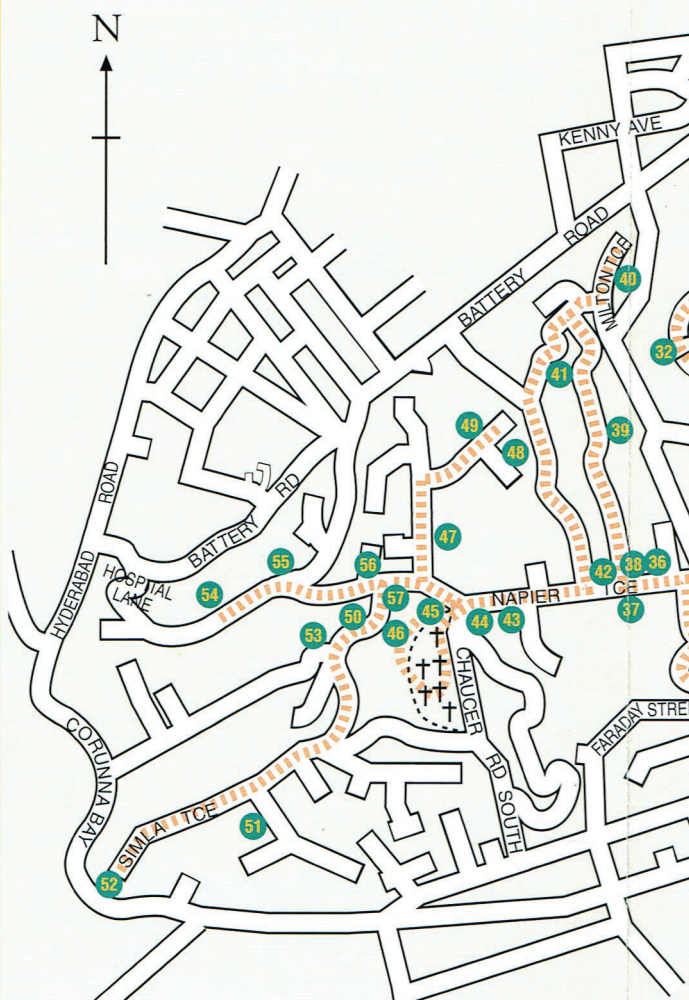
Old Napier Prison; Central School entrance in Napier Terrace; Gate Road; Napier Girls' High School Administration Block; Art Nouveau Ben Lomond in Clyde Road; Colenso's grave in Napier Cemetery Entrance gates to Napier Cemetery; View from Hospital Tce.





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Key

- Trail Route
- 51 Points of interest in text
- i Napier i-SITE Visitor Centre



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