

## 12. Wellington and district

After the 1843 Wairau Incident, refuge fortifications for Pākehā civilians were put up at Wellington (sections 12.4–5) and at Nelson (section 13.2) and Akaroa (sections 13.1, 13.3–4) in the South Island. Two years later, racial tensions rose in the Wellington and Hutt Valley districts where Pākehā put up more fortified refuges and posts in case of fighting. At the same time, Māori fortified several pā in the Hutt Valley and at Porirua Harbour.

When fighting began in autumn 1846, more European works were put up as defensible camps for soldiers building the Porirua Road. Fortifications were erected at Paremata and Pauatahanui, to keep watch over Porirua Māori who threatened Hutt Valley settlers throughout the conflict that followed (Best 1921: 20). Fighting ended in August 1846 when the Ngati Toa chief Te Rangihaeata withdrew north to the Manawatu district. The last 65th Regiment garrison was withdrawn from Paremata in 1852.

Detailed accounts of 1846 fighting in the Wellington region are in Wards (1968: 214–300) and Cowan (1983 I: 88–134). Best (1921) describes European works of the period. Wellington and district fortifications are listed under:

- Wellington
- Hutt Valley
- Porirua Road and district

### WELLINGTON

#### 12.1 Fort Thorndon

R27 (2659200E 5991000N); no site record, not located; also Clifford's Stockade (Best 1921: 17).

Wellington, Thorndon; south side of Hobson Street in Wellington Girls College grounds. On Mr Clifford's property (Town Acre 597) and adjacent to the New Zealand Company acre (SO 10408; Wards 1968: 233).

One of several forts and places of refuge put up by settler authorities in Wellington and the Hutt Valley in 1845 as tensions rose between Māori and Pākehā.

A contemporary plan shows a triangular work, incorporating two buildings, 'Mr Clifford's Premises' at one corner and 'NZ Company Offices' at another, as well as a gun platform and drawbridge across the ditch (Wards 1968: 233). Contract specifications for the work, gate and drawbridge, etc. have survived (Wards 1968: 233–234). Smith (1989: 132) gives the area as 0.38 ha.

No visible remains, but archaeological evidence can be accurately located from the historical evidence, and subsurface features will have survived.

#### 12.2 Karori Stockade

R27 (2656200E 5990000N); no site record, not located.

Karori, Wellington; south side of the Lancaster Street cutting.

Built in May–June 1846, in a bush clearing on Mr Chapman's land, under the supervision of Mr A.C. Strode (Best 1921: 18), by sailors from HMS *Calliope*, local militia and police, for protection against attack and as a refuge for settler families (Cowan 1983 I: 96–98).

A small stockade 28–30 × 20 ft (8.5–9 × 6 m), with 3–4 ft (900–1200 mm) ditch, which was 3–4 ft outside the wall to give room for a sentry. The loopholed stockade was mostly of split and

squared rimu and miro, 6–7 inches (152–175 mm) thick and 10 ft (3 m) high. Inside was a building of c. 16 × 12 ft (5 × 3.5 m) made of sawn rimu and kahikatea shingles, with 10 ft to the stockade wall all around (data from Cowan 1983 I: 96–98).

Present condition not known.

### 12.3 Te Aro Redoubt

R27 (2658700E 5989200N); no site record, not located.

Wellington; seaward side Manners Street, eastwards from c. Victoria St to half-way along along the city block to Cuba Street (location of town acres 207–209 as given in SO 10408).

Put up in 1845 by colonial authorities as a place of refuge for settlers as tensions rose with Māori, which led to fighting in 1846 (Cowan 1983 I: 92).

The Te Aro Redoubt contract specified a 10 ft (3 m) wide and 6 ft (1.8 m) deep ditch around three town acres 207, 208 and 209, except for part of 207 (Wards 1968: 234); Smith (1989: 132) gives the area as 1.23 ha. There was a ditch and bank around approximately half the perimeter, the harbour side being open and the remainder apparently left to existing buildings for defence (Wards 1968: 234; Cowan 1983 I: 92).

Any archaeological remains are now almost certainly destroyed.

### 12.4 Thorndon Redoubt

R27 (2659100E 5990800N); no site record, not located.

Wellington; near the cliff edge above the beach (now Thorndon Quay) between Pipitea Street and St Paul's Church, '... much nearer Pipitea Street than the church' (Cowan 1983: I: 93); at or near 1 or 3 Pipitea Street.

Put up at the north end of the town, matching Waterloo Redoubt at south end, in response to the June 1843 Wairau Incident (Cowan 1983: I: 93).

Redoubt earthwork of rectangular plan, with a long side overlooking the harbour; short east and west sides were completed but the rear was apparently unfinished (Cowan 1983 I: 93). Tony Walz gives historical details of the redoubt in Campbell (2009: 13–14).

There was no indication of the redoubt in 2008 archaeological excavations carried out by CFG Heritage west of Pipitea Street, about where the redoubt might have been expected (Campbell 2009). Any remains may now be largely or wholly destroyed.

### 12.5 Waterloo Redoubt

R27 (2658700E 5989600N); no site record, not located.

Wellington; above Willis Street and Lambton Quay corner, on headland named variously Clay Hill, Clay Point or Flagstaff Hill (Cowan 1983: I: 93).

At the end of June 1843, after the Wairau Incident, a headland at the south end of the town was fortified in one day and three 18-pounder guns mounted inside (Cowan 1983: I: 93–94).

Cowan (1983: I: 94) describes, '... not an enclosed redoubt, but a parapet facing the sea—an emplacement and protection for the guns, with a trench 9 feet wide.'

The headland has since been cut away and the site completely destroyed.

## HUTT VALLEY

### 12.6 Boulcott's Farm Stockade

R27 (2671500E 5999000N); no site record, not located.

Lower Hutt; on the Hutt Golf Course near clubhouse; access by High Street and Military Road.

Stockade attacked in the early morning of 16 May 1846 by upper Whanganui River Māori under Topine Te Mamaku, with Ngati Rangatahi and Ngati Toa, who together heavily outnumbered the 58th Regiment garrison of 50. After a fight lasting 1½ hours, the attackers withdrew, leaving eight soldiers dead.

A loopholed stockade of slabs and small logs around a large barn (Cowan 1983 I: 104). Wards (1968: 260) refers to associated log breastworks.

Present condition not known.

### 12.7 Fort Richmond

R27 (2669100E 5997700N); no site record, not located.

Lower Hutt; within the present course of Hutt River, upstream of or under Ewen Bridge.

The first of several forts and refuges ordered in 1845 by the Wellington Police Magistrate, Major Mathew Richmond, as tensions rose between Māori and Pākehā. Built in April 1845 to a design by Captain George Compton of the Hutt Militia, in the style of works in North America where he had lived. Occupied by militia and British troops throughout the 1846 fighting.

The 90 × 90 ft (27 × 27 m) stockade was made mostly of sawn pukatea, 12 ft (3.5 m) high and 3 ft (900 mm) in the ground. Two totara and kahikatea blockhouses, with shingle roofs, had upper storeys diagonal to the lower, which was unique in New Zealand. The blockhouse near the river bridge was 15 × 15 ft (4.5 × 4.5 m) and 22 ft (6.5 m) high. The blockhouse at the opposite angle was smaller, at 12 × 12 ft (3.7 × 3.7 m) and 18 ft (5.5 m) high (Best 1921: 18; Cowan 1983 I: 94–96; Wards 1968: 232–233).

Site entirely destroyed.

### 12.8 Hutt Stockade

R27; no site record, no location.

Lower Hutt; near site of the earlier Fort Richmond (12.7); located by Best (1921: 28) in a paddock opposite Jillet's Hotel, on Plowman's land.

Built in 1860–61 at the same time as Upper Hutt Stockade (12.10), and probably to the same specifications; the tender was let for £725 (Best 1921: 28).

Stockade 95 × 95 ft (29 × 29 m), 9 ft (2.7 m) high; a 30 × 30 ft (9 × 9 m) blockhouse at the southwest angle extended 15 ft (4.5 m) from the line of stockade for flanking defence. There was also flanking defence at the northeast corner (Best 1921: 28).

Any remains not known.

### 12.9 Taita Stockade

R27 (c. 2674500E 6001500N); no site record, not located.

Taita, Lower Hutt; west of the '... present hotel at Taita' (Best 1921: 19).

Established in 1846 and garrisoned on 16 May that year when Boulcott's Farm (12.6) c. 3 km down the valley was attacked. A sergeant and ten Hutt Militia were at the post in October 1846 (Best 1921: 19–20).

Established before May 1846, but possibly altered in November to an entrenched fort of two squares connected at one angle of each (Best 1921: 19).

Not known if any remains exist.

## 12.10 Upper Hutt Stockade

R27/146 (2682200E 6006500N); recorded 1983; also Wallaceville Blockhouse; Heritage New Zealand Category I registration No 207; Fig. 124.



Figure 124. Corner blockhouse of Upper Hutt Stockade. *Photo N. Prickett, 1990.*

Upper Hutt; grounds of Heretaunga College; access from Fergusson Drive south of city centre, east into McHardie Street, then at c. 200 m turn left into a narrow lane to school grounds.

Erected in response to fears among local settlers of threats by Otaki and Wairarapa Māori at the start of the First Taranaki War (Best 1921: 24–25). A contract was advertised on 18 August 1860 for construction of a blockhouse and stockade at McHardy's Clearing to the same specifications as Hutt Stockade (12.8; Best 1921: 28). Built in early 1861; garrisoned in the 1860s by Upper Hutt Militia (Cowan 1983 I: 449).

Cowan (1983 I: 25–27) describes a near-square 9 ft (2.7 m) high stockade, 30 yards (27 m) east–west and slightly more north–south, with a low parapet outside a firing trench. There was a two-storey, loopholed, L-plan blockhouse at the north angle and stockade bastion at the south angle.

The unique blockhouse survives, with stockade earthworks easily visible under mown grass on adjacent ground.

## PORIRUA ROAD AND DISTRICT

### 12.11 Clifford's Stockade

R27/235 (2661600E 5996700N); recorded 1993.

Johnsonville; Frank Johnson Street, exact location not known.

In 1845, Charles Clifford enlisted a volunteer company and in March 1846 started building the stockade, the first of several along Porirua Road. This was on Section 11/181, owned by Mr Johnson, in what was to be Johnsonville.

Cowan (1983 I: 98) describes a loopholed stockade, and small loft with ladder access which might have been part of an attached blockhouse or lookout.

Condition not known; unlikely to have survived.

## 12.12 Elliot's Stockade (1)

R27/242 (2664600E 6005800N); recorded 2001; also Fort Elliott.

Porirua; left bank of Kenepuru Stream (Wards 1968: 263-264), near Lyttelton Avenue, east of the Kenepuru Drive intersection.

One of several works along the Porirua Road for the security of road and road builders; the name is from Lieutenant Lempster Elliot (Hart 1849: 251) who commanded the 99th Regiment detachment at the post. Flooded at the end of 1846 and replaced by a new work (section 12.13) west of the Porirua Road (Wards 1968: 264).

The above information is from the historic record; exact location unknown.

Condition not known; unlikely to have survived.

## 12.13 Elliot's Stockade (2)

R27 (2664400E 6005700N); no site record, not located.

Porirua; Section 62 near Jackson's Ferry to Paremata (Wards 1968: 264); map reference from Walton (2003: 7).

Established at the end of 1846 after the first stockade was flooded (Wards 1968: 264).

Condition not known; unlikely to have survived.

## 12.14 Fort Strode

R26/258 (2669450E 6010650N); recorded 1993; Fig. 125.

Pauatahanui Inlet; near the shore of a prominent point on north side of inlet.

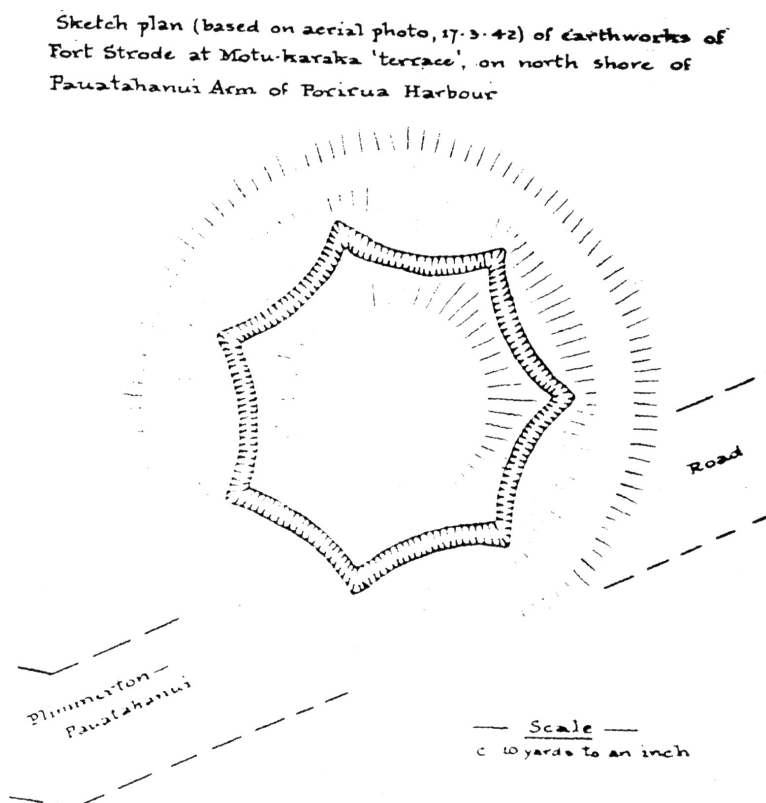


Figure 125. Fort Strode. George Leslie Adkin, *Māori Notebook 51* [1960-61], Ref.: MS-Papers-6061-52, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

Dating from 1846 Pākehā military operations for the control of the Pauatahanui district (see also Pauatahanui Stockade, section **12.21**); the name is from police Sub-Inspector A.C. Strode; formerly the site of Te Rangihaeata's Motu-Karaka pā before he moved to Matai-Taua (**12.17**).

Ditch and bank earthwork redoubt of a unique, scalloped, seven-sided plan; c. 22 yards (20 m) diameter, with flattened interior mound.

Destroyed by the shoreline road and by bulldozer preparation for a World War II American military camp.

## 12.15 Horokiri

R26/246 (2672800E 6015400N); recorded 1986, update 2003.

Battle Hill, Pauatahanui; access via walking track up ridge north of the graves and carpark off Paekakariki Hill Road.

When Te Rangihaeata abandoned Matai-Taua (**12.17**) on 1 August 1846, he was followed up by British troops, militia and police, and Te Atiawa and Ngati Toa forces, all under Major Edward Last. On 6 August, Last advanced through the bush and came upon Māori defences of felled trees and an earth breastwork across a narrow ridge, but came under fire and failed to dislodge the defenders. This was the last fight in the 1846 Wellington conflict. A week later Te Rangihaeata's forces were found to have gone (Cowan 1983 I: 125–134; Wards 1968: 282–284).

Makeshift work of felled trees and earth breastwork.

In pasture; a shallow trench can be traced across the ridge where it is cut by two farm tracks.

## 12.16 Leigh's Stockade

R27/238 (2663000 6002000N); recorded 2001; also Fort Leigh.

Tawa; west of Main Road near Oxford Street intersection; exact location not known.

Built May–December 1846 (Walton 2003: 7); one of several posts housing road builders and protecting the Porirua Road; name after Lieutenant Charles Leigh, 58th Regiment (Hart 1849: 251), who was in charge of a detachment at the post.

Located from historical records.

Condition not known; unlikely to have survived.

## 12.17 Matai-Taua

R27/135 (2671000E 6009300N); N160/113; recorded 1980, update 2005.

Pauatahanui; head of inlet on hill above road junction, St Alban's Church now on the site.

Te Rangihaeata's winter 1846 pā and headquarters; evacuated on 1 August when militia and Te Atiawa arrived from the Hutt Valley (Cowan 1983 I: 123–125).

Pā c. 80 × 40 m, generally rectangular but narrower at the west end; 15 ft (4.5 m) high outer palisade and an inner heavily timbered stockade of 10-inch square (250 × 250 mm) timber in front of a rifle trench. Some of many interior huts had tunnel access to the firing positions.

Surface evidence in church grounds and the paddock behind is not easy to interpret and may relate to the pā or to later Pauatahanui Stockade (**12.21**) on the same site, or both; surface midden scatters.

## 12.18 McCoy's Stockade

R27/236 (2663100E 6000900N); recorded 2001.

Tawa; next to Main Road, northeast of the Sunrise Boulevard intersection; from historical records, exact location not known.

Built in May–December 1846 (Walton 2003: 7); one of several posts housing road builders and protecting the Porirua Road. Name from Lieutenant Thomas M'Coy, 65th Regiment (Hart 1849: 217), in charge of the detachment.

Condition not known; unlikely to have survived.

## 12.19 Middleton's Stockade

R27/237 (2662500E 5999000N); recorded 2001.

Johnsonville; west of Middleton Road (Old Porirua Road), north of Johnsonville.

Built in May–December 1846 (Walton 2003: 7); one of several posts housing road builders and protecting the Porirua Road. Name is from Ensign Frederick Middleton, 58th Regiment (Hart 1849: 248), in charge of the detachment.

Stockade form not known.

Site destroyed when a house was built on the site in the late 1990s.

## 12.20 Paremata Barracks

R26/254 (2666700E 6010250N); recorded 1989, update 2004; Figs 126, 127.

Mana, Porirua City; Ngati Toa Domain, next to Mana Cruising Club building.

Governor Grey chose this fort site to control Porirua Harbour and an important north–south harbour crossing. In April 1846, 220 men of the 58th, 96th and 99th Regiments arrived by sea and set up camp behind a trench and parapet, which was soon replaced by a stockade, except at the harbour (south) side (Burnett 1963: 14–15). James Wilson then won a tender for £1,485 to build a stone barracks. Work began in October 1846 and was finished on 7 August 1847, with small towers added later (Burnett 1963: 16–18). When the 1848 Wellington earthquake damaged the upper storey, troops moved to huts in the adjacent stockade. The last garrison, of the 65th Regiment, left in June 1852 (Burnett 1963: 20). In 1855, the second Wellington earthquake brought down the upper storey (Wards 1968: 263).

Archaeological excavations in 1959–60 showed the two-storey stone fort to be 60 × 44 ft (18.3 × 13.4 m) with two 15 × 15 ft (4.6 × 4.6 m) bastions at opposite angles, and confirmed the contract specifications of 2 ft 3 inch (690 mm) outer and 1 ft 6 inch (460 mm) interior walls (Burnett 1963: 17, 29). A door at the northwest end led to a corridor giving access to four or more rooms, and to a magazine with 2 ft 6 inch (760 mm) walls.

There are important surviving remains despite continued deterioration of the walls. A protective fence was put up in 2004. There is no reported evidence of the associated preliminary earthwork or stockade.

## 12.21 Pauatahanui Stockade

R27 (2671000E 6009300N). No site record.

Pauatahanui; on a hill above the road junction at head of inlet, St Alban's Church now on the site; see also Matai-Taua (12.17).

When Te Rangihaeata evacuated Matai-Taua on 1 August 1846, on the same day Pākehā militia and local Te Atiawa took possession of the site. In October, the post was held by 100 men of the 65th Regiment under three officers; British troops remained at the stockade until 1850 to build roads in the neighbourhood (Best 1921: 23).

In 1847, the Pākehā stockade was described as retaining the pā stockade, with the interior now filled with wooden huts painted blue and shingled (Best 1921: 23).

Surface evidence in the church grounds and paddock behind will relate to the Pauatahanui Stockade or earlier Matai-Taua pā built on the same site, or both.

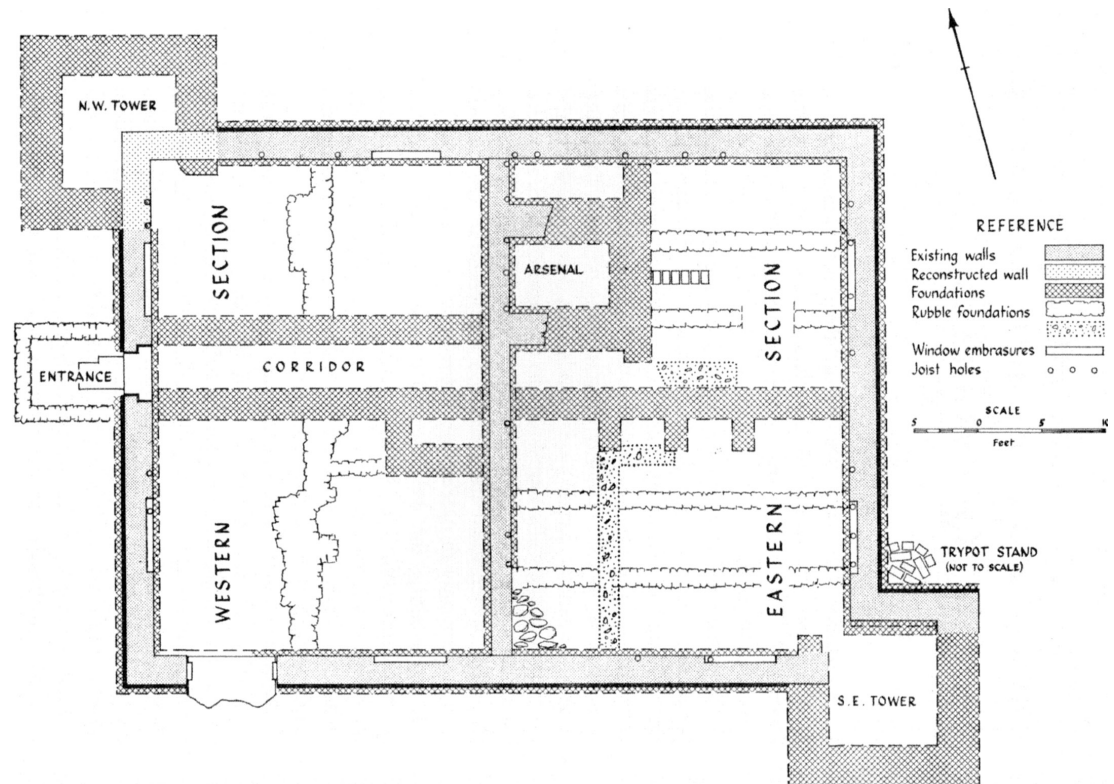


Figure 126. Paremata Barracks, plan. From Burnett 1963: 26.



Figure 127. Paremata Barracks. Photo: N. Prickett, 1990.