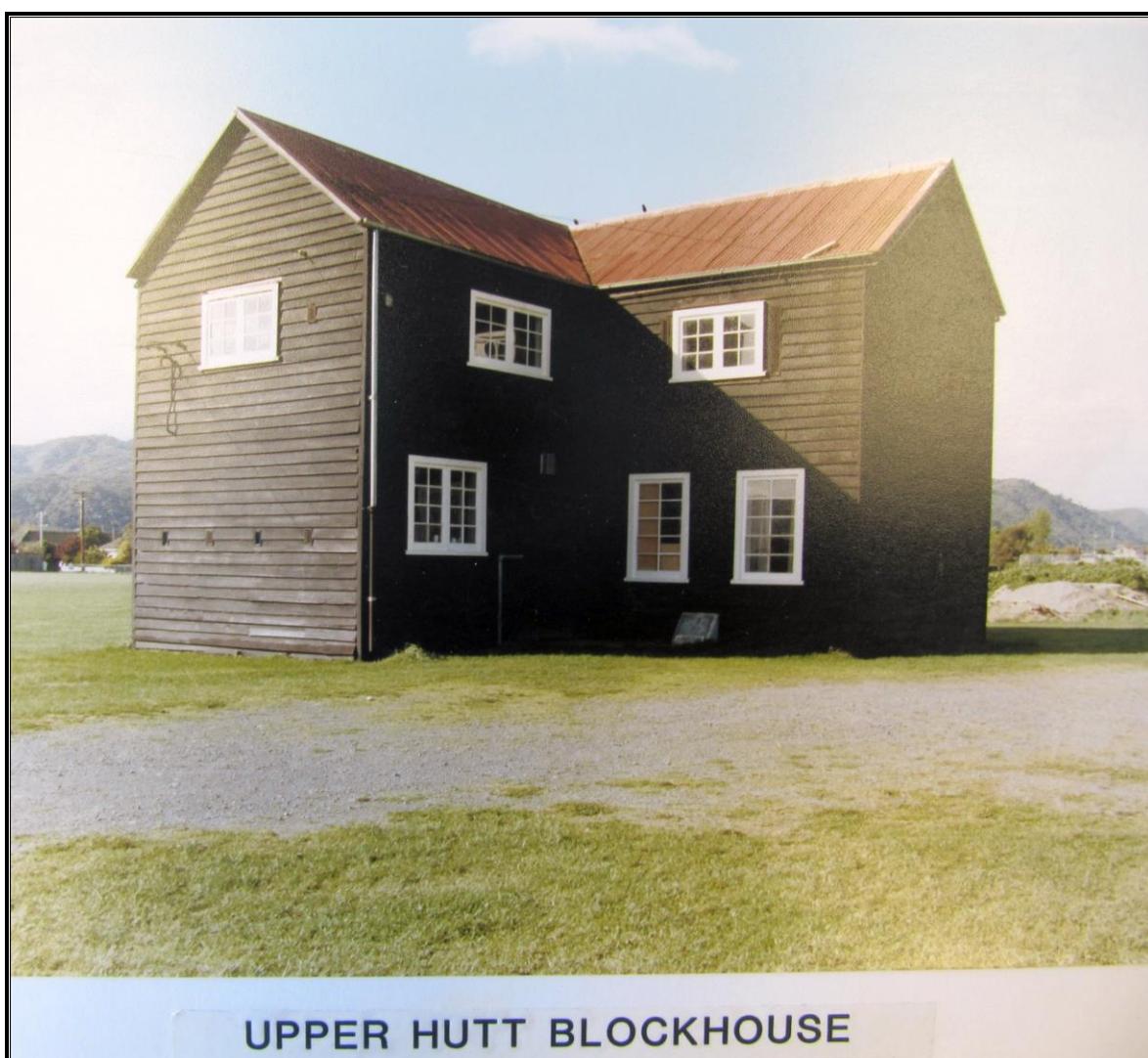


The Blockhouse



UPPER HUTT BLOCKHOUSE

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington ABKK W4358 24414 Box 472 Publicity 22 Upper Hutt Blockhouse-1783)

Upper Hutt Town or McHardie Town

On Monday 19 March 1860 in the Upper Hutt district at a meeting in the Highland Home Inn (later known as Quinn's Post hotel) a proposal was made by the local inhabitants to name their district "McHardie Town".

Wellington Independent newspaper Friday 23 March 1860

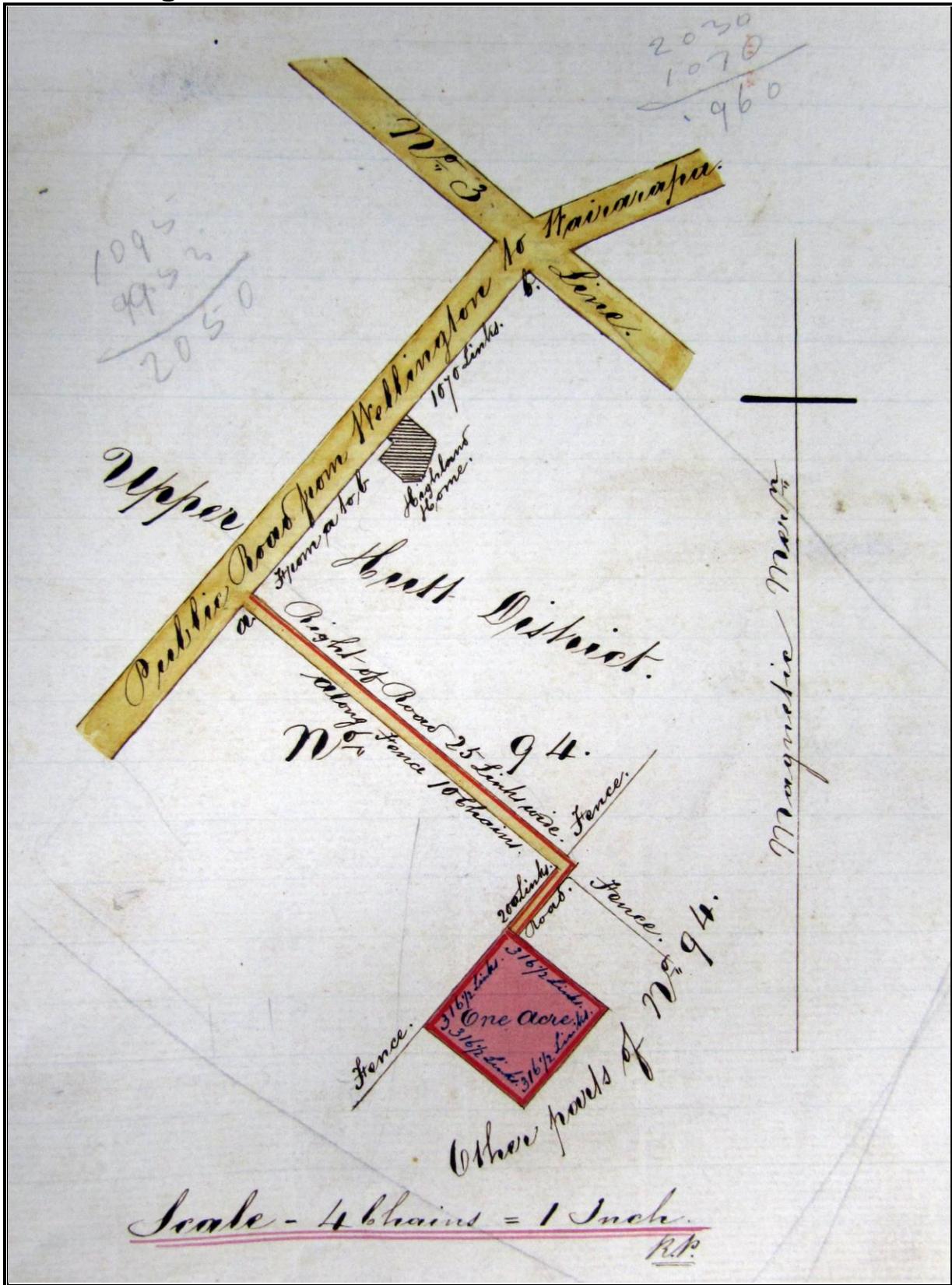
"At the close of the above meeting a petition to his Honor the Superintendent was presented to the meeting praying him to have the Upper Hutt Gazetted as a town, to be named by the present meeting. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the name of the town be McHardie Town, and on the carrying the proposition, the chairman remarked he did not think a better name could have been chosen. He was sure he (Mr McHardie) was the only land owner, in the neighbourhood who had assisted the working man in getting himself a little home and comforts about him, it was his land that had been cut into small sections and caused settlers to come up, it was he who had given the settlers the comfort and produce of their gardens, it was he, who was getting the land cleared, improved and cultivated, and he the chairman would merely, direct the attention of the meeting to the side of the road where Mr McHardie section was improving daily and to the opposite side of the road sections and see what had been done in the shape of improvement there. In conclusion the chairman regretted as chairman it had not been in his power to make the proposition, but felt satisfied the neighbourhood was now worthy to become a town and it could not hear, a more worthy name than the one which had been proposed and carried. The petition then received the signatures of the meeting which was unanimously attended and after returning thanks to the chairman, separated about 10 o'clock".

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper Friday 23 March 1860 page 3)

John MCHARDIE

John McHardie was born 21 May 1823 in Scotland. On 16 October 1841 he arrived in New Zealand on the ship "Arab". John married Selina Sharley on 16 July 1846 at the Wesleyan Chapel in the Hutt Valley. They had 7 children, William born 1849, Mary Anne born 1851, George born 1853, John born 1858, Jane born 1859, Henry born 1861 and James born 1865. By 1859 John had built and was operating the "Highland Home" Inn on part section 94 (situated on Fergusson Drive between Ward Street & Fortune Lane). In 1865 John advertised his land for sale and by 1870 he was resident at Bulls in the Rangitikei district. John McHardie died on 23 July 1883 and was buried in Clifton cemetery Bulls. His widow Selina died October 1899 in Sanson.

Highland Home and Blockhouse on Section 94



(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington AD 100 2 dz MB 1861/506 S Carkeek Forwarding Deeds for site of Hutt Stockades)

Tenders for Blockhouse and Stockade

29 June 1860

Upper Hutt 29 June 1860

Sir

I will undertake to erect the Block House and Stockade at the Hutt in accordance with the Plans and Specifications for the Sum of four Hundred and Eighty nine pounds 489.0.0.

I am Sir Your Obedient Servant
Edward Morgan Upper Hutt

Major Trafford

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAYS 8708 AD100 2/dz MB1861/32 order large file MB1861/506)

Edward Morgan was the only Upper Hutt resident to put in a tender. Alfred Keys and his family later settled in the Upper Hutt district

02 July 1860

The Hutt 02 July 1860

We the undersigned do agree to erect a Stockade at the Hutt according to Plans and Specifications as shown at the Hutt for the Sum of Six Hundred and Twenty One Pounds Nineteen Shillings and six pence

Signed Alfred Keys – Henry Meager – Thomas Wrigley

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAYS 8708 AD100 2/dz MB1861/32 order large file MB1861/506)

Wellington Independent newspaper 21, 24, 28 August 1860

Engineer's Office Lower Hutt 18th August 1860 – Sealed Tenders in Duplicate will be received at this office until Wednesday at noon of the 5th September next for the erection of A Stockade and Blockhouse, At the Upper Hutt on McHardy's Clearing according to plans and specifications, No 1 and 2. - Further particulars may be obtained upon application to Corporal Tapp, Royal Engineers at this office. - Persons may tender for either plan No 1 or No 2 or both. - The lowest Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

W Rawson Trafford Major
Commanding Wellington Militia and Volunteers

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 21 August 1860 page 2)

Blockhouse and Stockade Schedule of Tenders 1860

Schedule of Tenders received and opened this
2^d July 1860, for the undermentioned service.
Viz The erection of a Stockade & Blockhouse in the
Valley of the Hutt.

No of Tender	Name of person tendering	Amount offered for completion of the work
1	C. R. Carter	£ 745 - 0 - 0
2	H. B. & J. Ellern	530 - 0 - 0
3	Edward Morgan	489 - 0 - 0
4	Alfred Keys, Henry Meager & Thomas Wrigley	621 - 19 - 6
5	Robert Price & John Ransom	1.659 - 0 - 0
6	W ^m Taylor	725 - 0 - 0

Certified that Tenders No 1 and 6 have this day been opened in our presence—

The Board accepted the Tender of W^m Taylor as the lowest eligible one provided he furnishes security by bond himself in Two hundred pounds and each Surety in one hundred and fifty pounds

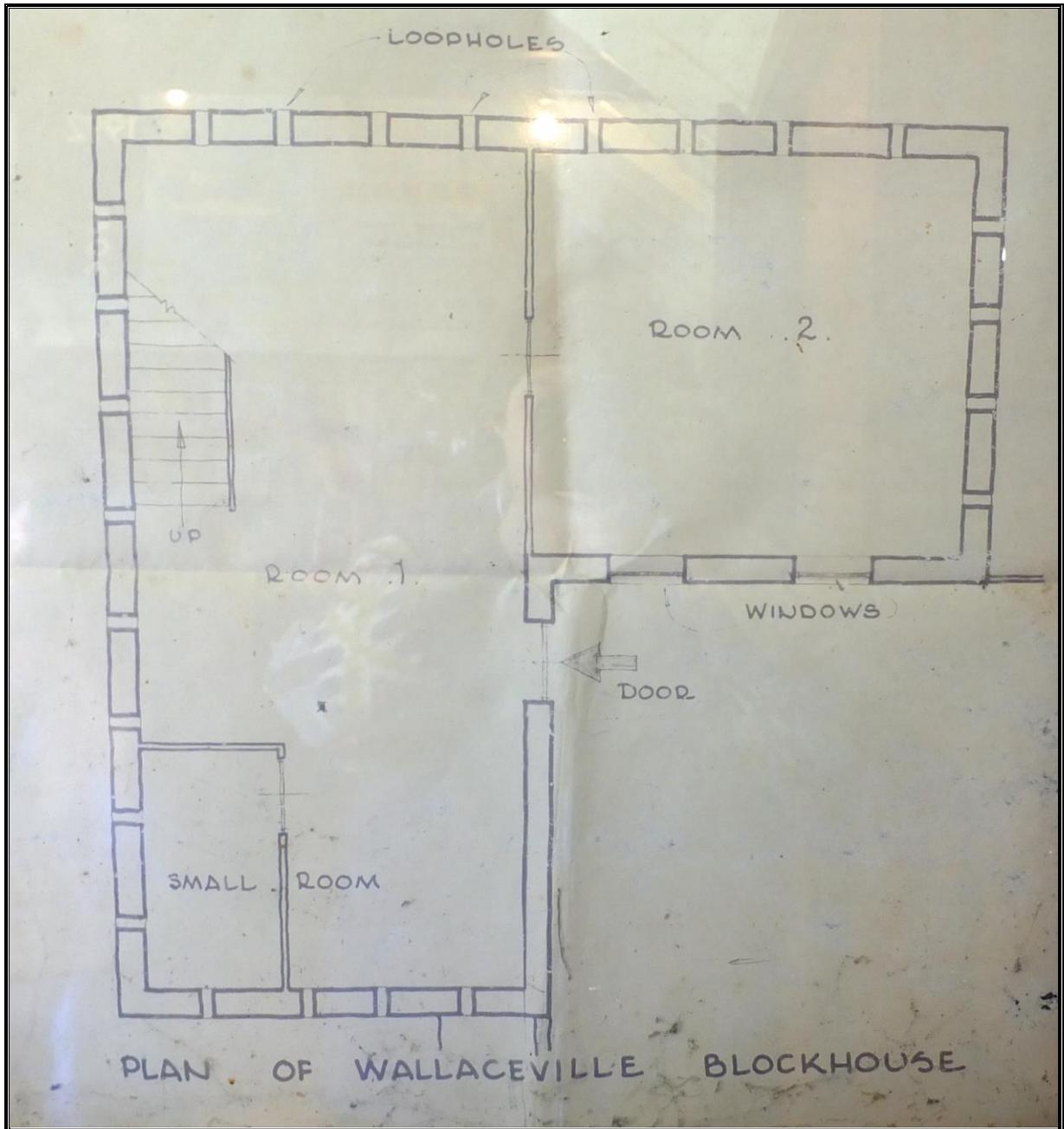
Wellington 2^d July 1860

Members of Board { W. Rawson Trafford
Major Com^d W. Mitton
J. Carkeek
A. Tudlam

True Copy
W. Rawson Trafford, W. M.
Commanding Garrison

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington AD 100 2 dz MB 1861/506 S Carkeek Forwarding Deeds for site of Hutt Stockades)

Plans of Blockhouse



(Reference Plan of Wallaceville Blockhouse held in glass cabinet upstairs inside Blockhouse)

Building of the Blockhouse

William Taylor builder and contractor of Hutt Road tendered to build the Blockhouse. He won the tender and had completed the Blockhouse by December 1860.

William Taylor – 02 July 1860

Tender for the erection of Stockade, Blockhouse, Magazine & Flagstaff

Proj. No. 6.
W. Taylor
60/1476
Hutt Road July 2nd 1860
Tender for the erection of Stockade and Blockhouse
with the Magazine and Flagstaff. The stockade to be
surrounded with a trench, according to the given
Plan and Specification to be erected in the
Hutt Valley in the province of Wellington
The whole of the works to be executed within
the time specified (viz) three months for the
Sum of £725 pounds Sterling
Wm Taylor Builder
and Contractor Hutt Road
Seven Hundred and Twenty five pounds

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington AD 100 2 dz MB 1861/506 S Carkeek Forwarding Deeds for site of Hutt Stockades)

Section No 94 Upper Hutt

Section 94 of 100 acres was originally selected for Thomas Bannister who transferred it to Thomas Smith on 27 July 1840 in England. Thomas Smith transferred it to Henry WISE on 02 December 1843 in England. A supplementary Land Order for 75 acres was issued in England to Henry Wise which was later exchanged for Government Scrip. Henry Sargent claimed and was granted 20 acres of section 94 and John McHardie claimed and was granted the remainder 80 acres. Later Nathaniel William Levin claimed the 20 acres of which 6 acres was granted to Richard Geange and 14 acres was granted to John Wilkins.

The Blockhouse and Stockade was built on part of section 94 owned by John McHardie. John was recorded as being paid £20 for the sale of this land. Nathaniel William Levin was also recorded as being paid £20. The reason was that Mr McHardie had a mortgage with Mr Levin so the £20 payment went straight to Mr Levin.

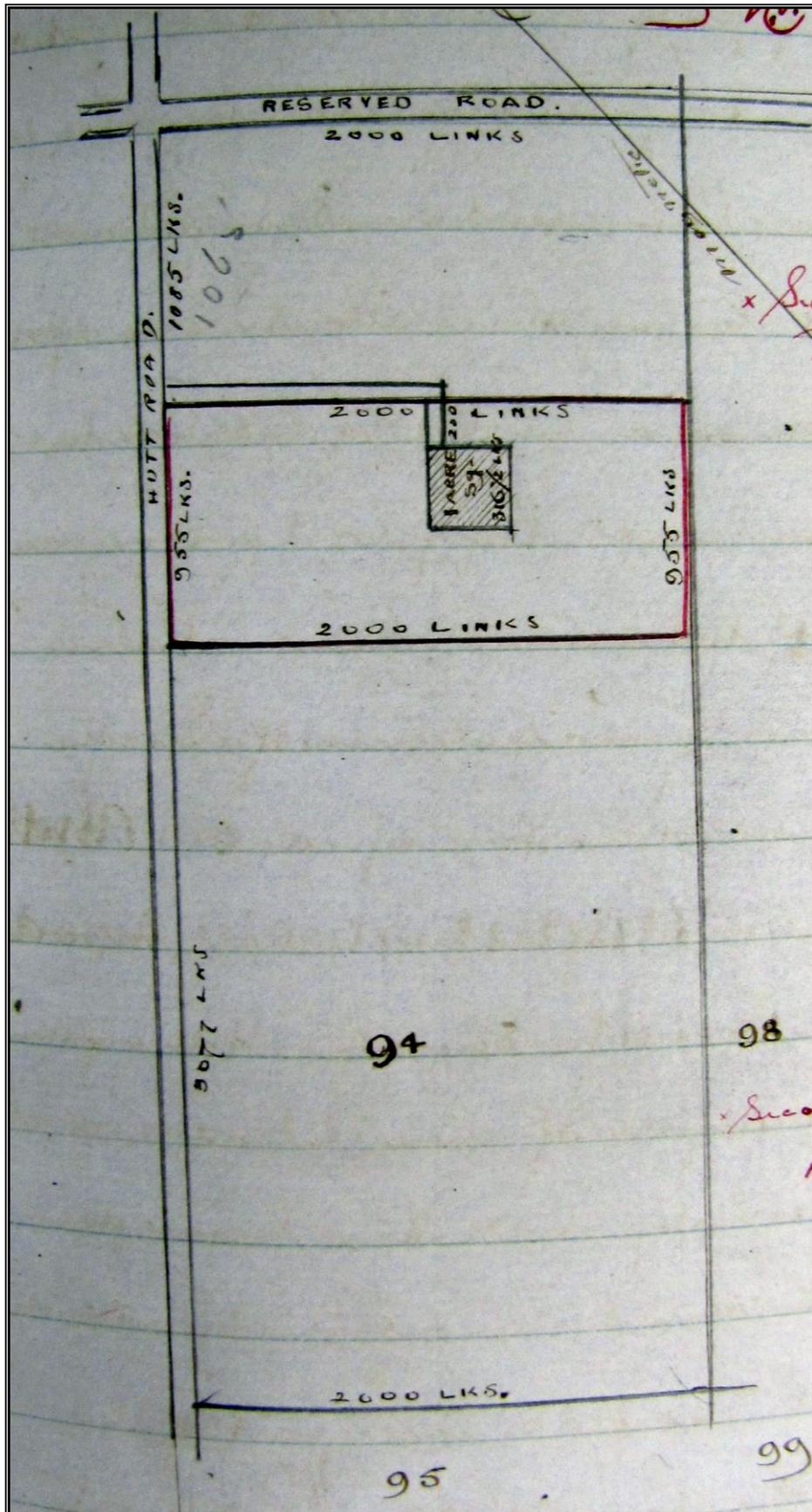
Fortune Lane was the first business and commercial area in Upper Hutt. The first record of its existence was on an 1860 land document. Some say Fortune Lane was named after a young man who made his fortune hoaxing shopkeepers in the Lane.

Ward Street was named after Sir Joseph George Ward (1856-1930) the 17th Prime Minister of New Zealand and Member of Parliament from 1887 to 1930. The first name recorded for Ward Street was Reserved/Reserves Road, then around 1860s Mungaroa Road, followed by Wallaceville road and finally Ward Street.

Fergusson Drive was named after His Excellency the Governor General of New Zealand Sir Bernard Fergusson who declared Upper Hutt a City in 1966. Fergusson Drive has been known by many names over the years. The first road completed from Wellington to Upper Hutt was in 1844. The road was first known as the New Zealand Company Road, followed by Company Road, Great North Eastern road, Old Military Road, Wairarapa Road, Main Hutt Road, Hutt Road, Main Road & Main Road South & and finally Fergusson Drive.

McHardie Street was named after John McHardie the first proprietor of the Highland Hotel (Quinn's Post) near Fortune Lane. Later known as the Good Shepherd property the street name was agreed at Upper Hutt Borough Council meeting on 24 April 1956. In a June 1955 report the Council proposed naming Clyma Street McHardy but voted against it. The street has also been recorded as McHardy Street

Site of Blockhouse on Section 94



(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington AD 100 2 dz MB 1861/506 S Carkeek Forwarding Deeds for site of Hutt Stockades)

School and Divine Worship at Blockhouse

Bishop House Wellington
18 October 1861

Sir

Having understood from some of the Civil Military authorities of the Province that there was no apparent need just now of the Stockade at the Upper Hutt for its original purpose, I wish to be informed whether the General Government would let me rent it for the purpose of a school and Devine service, as I am sending a Clergyman to reside up there to minister to the English and Natives of the Valley of course, whenever the military were wanted for its original uses ,I would give it up immediately, and I would make arrangements with the present occupant so as not to inconvenience them. If the General Government would allow me to rent it, I should wish to know in which terms.

I have the honour to be Sir
You're obedient Servant
C J Wellington

To Colonel Secretary

Bishops House Wellington
21 October 1861

Sir

I wrote almost a duplicate of this letter by way of Napier last week but hearing it may not be forwarded quickly from that Port I venture to repeat what I then said – It was to this effect that having understood from the Civil and Military authorities of this Province that there was not much apparent likelihood of the Stockade at the Upper Hutt being wanted for its original purpose I wish to be informed whether the General Government would allow me to rent it for a School House and place of Devine worship as I am sending a Clergyman to reside there after Christmas to minister to the Natives of the Valley & to the English of that locality of course I would engage to vacate it whenever it may be wanted for its original purpose and I would make arrangements with the present occupant to live in some portion of it and keep it in good order – If the Government can accept my wished I would be glad to know what the rent would be per annum?

I have the honour to be Sir
Your obedient Servant [signed] C J Wellington

The Hon'ble The Colonial Secretary

Superintendent Office
Wellington 23 October 1861

Sir

*I have the honour to enclose a letter from the Bishop of Wellington in which his Lordship offers to rent the Stockade in the Upper Hutt, intending to use it as a School House and place of worship.
As I trust there is very little prospect of its ever being required for the purpose for what it was erected I have great pleasure in recommending that his Lordships application should be granted.*

I have the Honour to be Sir
Your most obedient Servant
I E Featherston - Superintendent

Honourable Colonial Secretary

Otago Daily Times newspaper 03 March 1862

A few months since the use of the stockade erected during the Taranaki troubles at the Upper Hutt was granted for church and school purposes now the Lower Hutt stockade had been applied for the use of the common school there and will no doubt be granted.

Bishop of Wellington request to rent Blockhouse

31st Oct/61
 Sup^r-
 Enclosing letter from Bishop of Wellington
 to rent Stockade in Upper Hut
 23/10/61
 61/2311
 Superintendent's Office
 Wellington 23 Oct. 1861.
 Sir,
 I have the honor to
 enclose a letter from the Bishop
 of Wellington; in which His
 Lordship offers to rent the
 stockade in the Upper Hut,
 intending to use it as a school
 house and place of worship.
 As I trust there is very
 little prospect of its ever being
 required for the purpose for which
 it was erected I have great pleasure
 in recommending that His Lordship's
 application
 The Honourable
 The Colonial Secretary
 Auckland

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington A1 237 [35] 1863/1315 Colonial Secretary – 1791)

Early Settler leasing land on Section 94

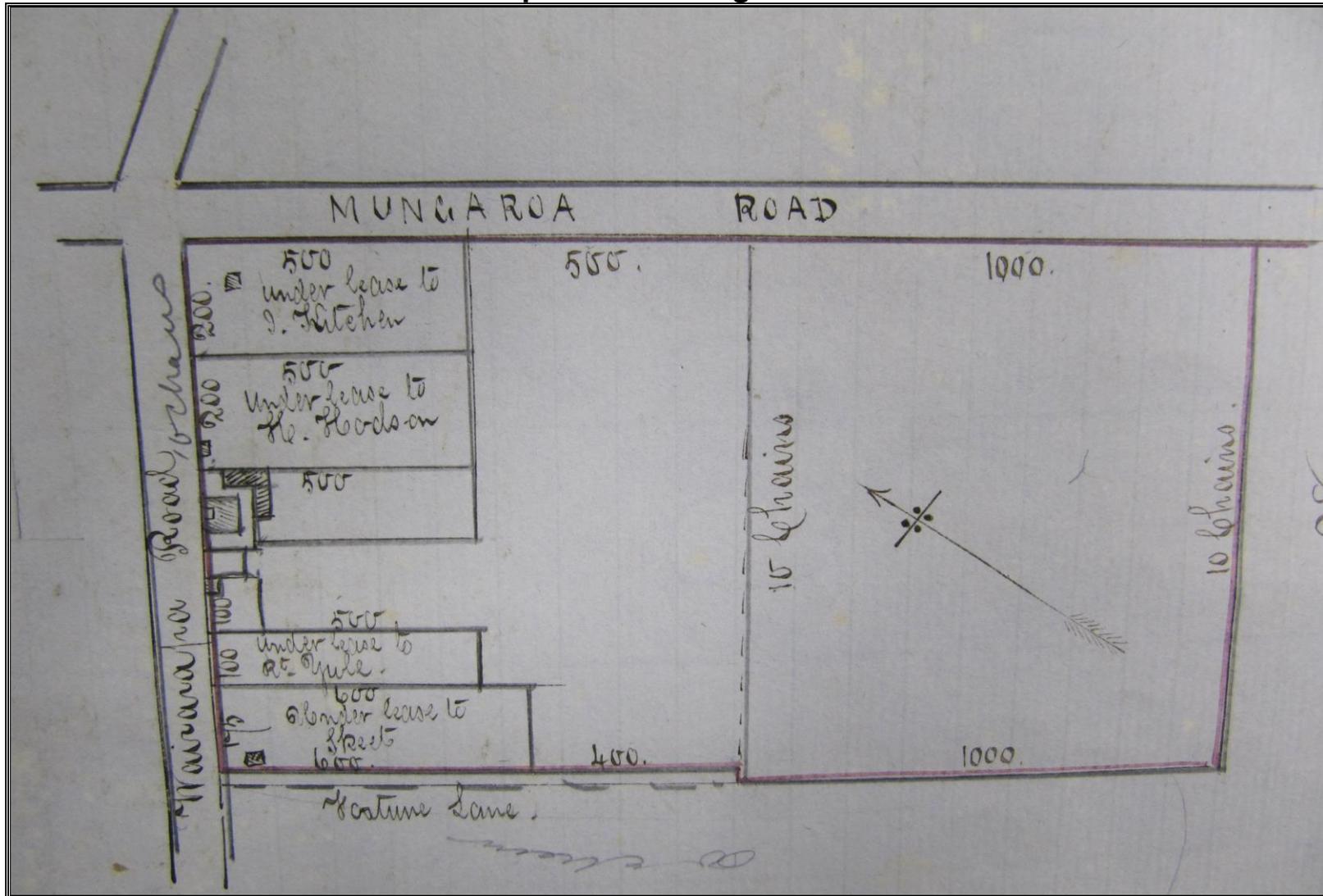
Henry HODGSON was born 1808 Durham England 1st married 1832 Ann Pearson and had two children Henry born 1837 and Elizabeth born 1840 both in England. Ann died 1842 and Henry married 1846 to Mary Skinner in England. Mary had a son Thomas. The family departed Liverpool and arrived 1856 to Port of Wellington on the Oliver Lang. In 1864 Henry was a voter of the Mungaroa district. Henry's step son Thomas Skinner and son-in-law John Craig both got caught in a snow storm and both died in Otago. Their widowed daughter Elizabeth Craig was living with Henry and Mary at the time. Henry died 1867 and was buried at St John churchyard in Trentham Upper Hutt. Henry's Widow Mary married John Kelly in 1869 and she died 1885 in Upper Hutt.

John KITCHEN birth details and when he arrived in New Zealand are unknown but he married Sarah Shipley Taylor on 04 April 1861 in Upper Hutt. John was recorded on the 1865 Hutt Electoral Roll. Their children were Mina born 1861, John Robert born 1862, Bruce born 1865, Arthur Walter born 1867, Arthur born 1870 all in New Zealand and Julius born 1873 in Ross. Sarah Shipley Kitchen died 1882. I do not know when or where John Kitchen died.

Robert Mixer SKEET was born 1832 in Essex England to parents Susanna nee Blythe and William Skeet. Robert married 1852 in Essex England to Mary Warren. They had three children all born in England William Oswald born 1854, Mary Louisa born 1855 and Robert Henry born 1856. Their departure from England and arrival in New Zealand are unknown. Additional children were born in New Zealand Frank Edmund Ayers born 1859 died 1860, Kate Florence born 1861, Frank Westbrook born 1863, Maud Emily born 1865, Robert Reginald born 1867 and Ernest Albert born 1869. Robert was a surveyor. Robert died 1894 Gisborne New Zealand and Mary Skeet died 1921 New Zealand.

Alexander YULE a sawyer from Lancashire England departed Glasgow in 1839 arrived in Wellington 20 February 1840 on the Bengal Merchant. His wife Elizabeth and three children Grace, Robert and Mary were also recorded on the passenger list. There was also a John and Moses Yule on the same ship so perhaps they were related. Alexander and Elizabeth had seven more children all born in New Zealand Alexander born 1840, Janet born 1840, Helen born 1848, Mary Watson born 1850, Margaret born 1852, Marion Jane born 1854 and William born 1856. Alexander sawyer of River Hutt was recorded on the 1847 and 1859 Jury list. Alexander died 1890 and Elizabeth died 1903. They are both buried at the cemetery in Masterton.

Fortune Lane –Wairarapa Road - Mungaroa Road - Part Section 94



(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington Deeds Register Room Deeds Index Book)