23 Te Ropu MUTUORA died 1874
A chief of Te Ao a Pipitea Pa, he had been a warrior but converted to Christianity. He sided with the Government over a number of contentious issues and accompanied Governor George Grey to Tararua in 1847.

24 Daniel DOUGHERTY 1804–1857
Daniel and Sarah came to New Zealand in a whaling ship in 1838. After a brief return to Canada and England, they settled in Wellington at Port Underwood in 1842. Sarah nursed the men injured during the Wairau Incident and run a boating club. This was the first New Zealand rowing club.

25 William Barnard RHODES died 1878
Rhodes, the oldest of four brothers who came to New Zealand, became a wealthy merchant, property owner and sheperd farmer and a Member of Parliament from 1853 onwards. His tombstone, the largest in the cemetery, reflects the fact he was probably New Zealand’s richest individual at the time of his death. His grandson, William Barnard Rhodes-Moorhouse, was awarded a Victoria Cross in World War I.

26 James Edward FITZGERALD 1818–1896
Superintendent of antiquities at the British Museum before emigrating in 1850, he became involved in New Zealand politics while editor and owner of The Press, and became Superintendent of Canterbury Province. As MP for Lyttelton, he argued for Protestant education and became Minister of Native Affairs. Alongside, note the memorial stones by the Star Boating Club. This was the first New Zealand rowing club, started by whalemen in 1866.

27 Rita PORUTU died 1867
The flat stonewall marks the grave of the chief of Pipitea Pa, a signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi and uncle of the prophet Te Whiti.

28 Henry Middleton BLACKBURN
A young soldier killed by Te Rauparaha’s kānukō in a skirmish at Horsen, near Parapara, in 1846. Of the funeral the friend wrote, “The melancholy notes of the fife really went to one’s heart. It was bitter to think that these savages had cut off such an amiable promising young man in the prime of youth.”

31 Col. William Edward Gibbon, Daniel and Selina WAKEFIELD
Edward Gibbon Wakefield created the New Zealand Company and assisted by his brothers founded settlements throughout the colony in the 1840s, including Wellington in 1840. Visit the chapel for a detailed history of the Wakefield family and to see William Wakefield’s original headphones.

32 Yip Ah Chong (Ah Jeung)
Three of the Chinese graves in the cemetery are believed to be those of seamen who became ill and died in Wellington. Each has a Chinese inscription naming his home village. Mr Yip’s headstone reads: “Dok Gau Village, Ling district, grave of Mr Ah Chong Yip, died in February 1889, aged 57.” The Evening Post (19 February 1889) gave no information about Mrs Yip, but reported that his funeral procession with 10 carriages of mourners (probably his crew mates) attracted “large numbers of spectators” to the cemetery.

33 Alexander Horsburgh TURNBULL 1868–1918
Turnbull, born in Wellington, left his library of 55,000 books and other items to the nation, and his collection became the Alexander Turnbull Library, now part of the National Library of New Zealand. This is a relocated mausoleum as the Turnbull family is now interred in the burial vault.

34 Thomas Wilmore McKENZIE 1827–1911
A printer and founding partner of the Independent newspaper in 1845, McKenzies later managed The New Zealand Times, established by Julius Vogel in 1846. At 13 Thomas unaccountably breathed a tap across a Maori house under construction. Chief Porutu would have killed him had his wife not thrown a cloak over the boy to prevent it.

35 Charles Decimus BARraud 1822–1897
Barrand arrived in Wellington in 1849 and set up a successful pharmacy, later forming the Pharmacetical Society of New Zealand. He went on to become a respected artist (watercolours and oils), highly regarded for his landscapes, and instrumental in founding the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.

36 Charles and Jessica PHARAZYN
Charles died aged 101, having arrived in 1841. After running a store at Pipitea Point, he was a run holder in Paitani Bay, and then returned to business and politics in Wellington. Jessica, his second wife, wrote several popular songs, set to music by Irish musician Michael Barle (composer of the popular opera “The Bohemian Girl”)

37 John FERGUSSON
John was the baby son of Sir James Ferguson, Governor of New Zealand 1879–74, and his second wife. John died shortly after birth in 1873 and the little relented coffins-shaped tombstone is simply marked with his first name and date. Sir James was the first of three Fergusons to occupy the vice-regal position.

38 BURIAL VAULT
Beneath the Early Settlers Memorial Lawton outlined in bricks, is the vault for the bodies (about 7000) reinterred during motorway construction. A list of names is located in the chapel (47).

39 John PEARCE (Pierce?)
This may be the oldest memorial in the cemetery, probably erected in 1841. Several details on the tombstone are incorrect, including possibly the spelling of his name. Pearce, with eight others, drowned when his boat capsized in a storm off Petone Beach on 25 August 1840. Ironically, Pearce had emigrated for the good of his health and had written letters for publication in London extolling the virtues of the area for settlement.

40 Louisa JOHNSON
Louisa (a widow) and her five children were killed in a fire in 1897, which swept through three houses, stables and a hotel kitchen. Fire was a serious threat in the wooded settlement. Fire brigades were efficient, but this time a water blockage let them down.

41 Dr. John DORSET died 1856
Dorset, a successful army captain, was appointed Colonial Surgeon and arrived in Wellington with Colonel Wakefield on the Tery in 1839. Prominent in colonial affairs, he owned several central city properties. Point Dorset, Seatoun, was named after him. This is one of 28 wooden grave markers still surviving.

42 Kate MAIR (nee Spreerree) died 1893
Kate was a well known artist famous for her portraits of prominent leaders such as Harry Atkinson, George Grey and John Ballance. Her husband was a respected artist (watercolours and oils), highly regarded for his landscapes, and instrumental in founding the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts. He went on to become a respected artist (watercolours and oils), highly regarded for his landscapes, and instrumental in founding the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.

43 THE SELWYN OAK
This tree is believed to have been planted by Bishop Selwyn, New Zealand’s first Anglican Bishop, perhaps as early as 1842. To the north is the grave of Archdeacon Fancourt, first vicar of St Mary’s Church in Karori.

44 John BALMER
This bandstand of the 65th Regiment, a keen ocean swimmer, died in the jaws of a 4-metre shark in Lambton Harbour on Wellington Anniversary Day 1852.

45 Andrew Hagerty GILLESPIE
Father and son died in a revenge attack by tenants of Te Rauparaha, after the burning of what they thought were Maori Huts on their newly acquired land in Hutt Valley. Te Rauparaha, anxious to clear his own followers of blame, told Governor George Grey where to find the murderers, although they were never captured.

46 Anglican Cemetery SEXTON’S COTTAGE
Built in 1852 by Charles Mills and solders of the 65th Regiment, this is one of the two oldest houses in Wellington. Wellington in 1842. To the north is the grave of Archdeacon Fancourt, first vicar of St Mary’s Church in Karori.

47 Anglican MORTUARY CHAPEL
This is a replica of the original mortuary chapel, and designed by Frederick Thatcher and built in 1866 using materials from the 1st St Paul’s Church of 1844. Now an information centre, it contains historical displays and a register of burials. Open every day, 10am-4pm.
TRAIL GUIDE

Route guide
Markers direct you around the trail - follow them in reverse if you like. The Upper Trail is steeper than the Lower Trail. Some parts of the trail are unsuited and include steps. There is limited wheelchair access.

Step back in time
This trail gives a glimpse into the life and times of a growing colony. The cemetery is as old as the settlement of Wellington, founded in 1840.

Stories told by the headstones reflect the growing pains of the colony - poor sanitation, lack of welfare, fire, racial tensions, as well as the growing prosperity in this thriving port town and (from 1853) political seat of the nation.

By 1892 the Public and Anglican sections of the cemetery were reaching capacity and a new cemetery was opened in Karori.

Motorway
Huge controversy arose in the 1960s when the cemetery area was selected for the route of the city's motorway. A protection society was formed which still exists today as the Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery.

The cemetery was closed for three years while about 3700 burials were exhumed and reinterred in a vault under the Lower cemetery lawn. Where there were headstones, these were relocated as near to the original site as possible. The cemetery, now in two parts linked by a footbridge, was made a memorial park commemorating the first 50 years of the city, but retains its earlier name of Bolton Street Cemetery.

Gravestones
Although over 8500 people were buried in the cemetery, many of the oldest graves are no longer visible as the simple wooden picket fences, erected to deter grazing stock, have disappeared. The earliest grave markers were also made of wood and this continued to be the cheapest material for the poorer settlers. Less than 30 of these still remain and their painted lettering has disappeared.

As the settlement prospered, more permanent building materials were used, ranging from local stone to marble and even rose-coloured granite for those who could afford it. Cast iron was used for more durable fencing and, unusually, this material was also used for some grave markers.

Only 1334 gravestones are still visible and less than half of these are in their original location. The reinstated gravestones can be recognised as they are grouped closely together without fencing or base. About a quarter of the burials were of children, reflecting the high mortality rate in the pioneer colony.

Heritage roses
The cemetery also contains a heritage rose collection of national significance.

16 National significance.
19 Stories told by the headstones reflect the high mortality rate in the pioneer colony.
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