TINAKORI ROAD

Tinakori Road has some of the finest houses in Wellington. The northern Tinakori Road area was home to some of the wealthiest and most influential Wellingtonians, whose names are linked with well-known companies, towns, streets or parks.

This part of Thorndon, though, nearly had an even more distinguished history. In 1865 Parliament authorised the purchase of the area in front of Katherine Mansfield’s Birthplace as the proposed site of the Governor’s residence, General Assembly and government offices.

This was part of preparations for the shift of central government from Auckland to Wellington. Eventually the site at Molesworth Street (Walk 4) was chosen.

1 BOTANIC GARDEN

(See over)

2 THE ANCHORAGE

31 Patanga Crescent (‘)

Built in the 1890s for Alfred Boardman, the manager of South British Insurance. The house was named The Anchorage by the Holm family, whose patriarch, Ferdinand Holm, established the Holm Shipping Line. The Holms lived here from 1879 until 1979.

3 FERNBANK STUDIO

184a Sydney Street West (‘)

This cottage was built in 1877 and was the home of one of New Zealand’s finest artists, Rita Angus, from 1955 until her death in 1970. The magnolia tree in the garden often appeared in her paintings.

The house is now used by artists in residence and was restored by the Thorndon Trust.

4 GRANNY COOPER’S COTTAGE

30 Aorangi Terrace

This cottage was built in 1862 and named after the mistress of an early school based in the house from 1867 to 1888. It even had a playground. Wellington City Council created the Thorndon heritage zone after a fight to save the cottage in 1972.

5 SHEPHERDS ARMS

285 Tinakori Road

The original Shepherds Arms was built on this site in 1870 and parts of the original pub are incorporated in the present building.

6 304–314 TINAKORI ROAD

Six tall and slender timber houses built in 1903 in the style of San Francisco houses of that period. The corrugated iron on their sides was intended to stop the spread of fire.

7 THE WEDGE

20 Glenbervie Terrace

Designed and built in 1906 by architect James Benne as speculative housing and well known for its three-sided section.

8 THE MORRINS

31 Gernervie Terrace

Built in 1905 and designed and occupied by architect JS Swan, a yachtsman who sailed with Alexander Turnbull. The house has a nautical flavour both inside and out. The Gernervie was a New Zealand Company ship that brought some of the first European settlers to Wellington.

9 251 TINAKORI ROAD

One of the oldest buildings in Wellington – this is a small worker’s cottage built in the 1860s.

10 PREMIER HOUSE

Tinakori Road

The Prime Minister’s official residence since 1869. A small cottage, built in 1843, originally stood on the site. Later the house was extended and sold to the Crown in 1865. Premier Julius Vogel made substantial additions thought to have been designed by his father-in-law William Clayton. In 1935 Labour Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage refused to live in such a grand home and was given to the town of Levin. ‘Willie’ Levin was a successful merchant. Born a Jew, he switched to Anglicanism and became a prominent member of the Old St Paul’s vestry. The magnificent clerestory windows at the top of the house once provided a view of the harbour. The avenue was named for Annie Burnell Beauchamp, mother of Katherine Mansfield.

11 THE SHAMROCK

230 Tinakori Road

A rare surviving Victorian pub, built in 1893, it was moved in two parts from its original site at the corner of Howickstone and Molesworth Streets in 1961. Now an antique store and Indian restaurant.

12 TINAKORI LANES

Aorangi Terrace, Pope’s Grove, Calympia Avenue and Torless Avenue are four small lanes off Tinakori Road where the cottages, dating from the 1890s, are evocative of the era in which they were built. Number 5 Torless Terrace is thought to date back to the 1850s.

Whitcuffs. Note the hand-wrought gutter brackets and door furniture, leadlight windows and the Maiselles tile roof.

13 TOMBS HOUSE

22 Burnell Avenue

Another Chapman-Taylor Arts and Crafts design built in brick in 1910 for the Tombs family, of publishers Whitcombe and Tombs, later publishers Whitcombe and Tombs, later became a Partner of Harold Nathan. The Nathan family features in Katherine Mansfield’s story ‘Prelude’. Katherine Mansfield Beauchamp (1886–1923). The Beauchamp family lived in the house from the year of her birth until 1893. The house has been restored by a society established to protect the building. The garden reflects the period 1880 to 1900. From 1917 to 1924, the house was also the home of Dr Frederick Truby King, the founder of the Plunket Society, a welfare organisation for mothers and babies. The house is now open to the public.

Please note that most of the houses listed are privately owned and not all can be seen from the street. These are marked with *.

14 PENDENNIS

12 Burnell Avenue

This house was designed by Francis Petre and built about 1875 for William Levin, the son of William Hort Levin – whose name was given to the town of Levin. ‘Willie’ Levin was a successful merchant. Born a Jew, he switched to Anglicanism and became a prominent member of the Old St Paul’s vestry. The magnificent clerestory windows at the top of the house once provided a view of the

15 60 TINAKORI ROAD

This house was designed by leading architect William Turnbull in 1910.

16 50 TINAKORI ROAD

Built in 1896 for Thomas Roynye, the first general manager of New Zealand Railways. It was designed by Frederick de Jersey Cleare, who was well known for his designs of churches – including St Mary of the Angles in Boucliff Street.

17 100 HOBSON STREET

This house was built by Walter Nathan in 1883. Nathan later became a partner of Harold Beauchamp. Katherine Mansfield’s father, in his general merchant’s firm. The Nathan family features in Mansfield’s story Prelude.

18 BEERE HOUSE

32 Tinakori Road

Built in 1868 for the Bee family, this is an early example of the work of architect James Walter Chapman-Taylor. Designed in the Arts and Crafts style, the walls are of lath and plaster to simulate the whitewashed stone cottages of England.

19 KATHERINE MANSFIELD BIRTHPLACE

30 Tinakori Road

The birthplace of New Zealand’s most famous writer, Katherine Mansfield Beauchamp (1886–1923). The Beauchamp family lived in the house from the year of her birth until 1893. The house has been restored by a society established to protect the building. The garden reflects the period 1880 to 1900. From 1917 to 1924, the house was also the home of Dr Frederick Truby King, the founder of the Plunket Society, a welfare organisation for mothers and babies. The house is now open to the public.

Walk through the heart of the harbourside city and discover the early history, the public art and the heritage buildings.

Walk 5 takes you from the Botanic Garden – a jewel in the heart of the city, along Tinakori Road and to the birthplace of New Zealand’s most famous writer, Katherine Mansfield.
In 1844, 12 acres of land was set aside for a Botanic Garden. It was not developed until 1868 and was run for the first 23 years by the New Zealand Institute. In 1844 the area was covered in dense forest, with many of the original podocarp species (rimu, totara, matai etc) still present. At this time the upper slopes were in kanuka, indicating previous fires in the area. There were also known Maori cultivations in the area towards the Terrace in the Kumutoto block.

In 1871 a further 54 acres of surviving bush were added and much of this remains a rare treasure close to the city centre.

By 1891, when management passed to Wellington City Council, the Garden was nothing like it is today. Due to lack of funding, the Garden was in very poor condition and there were few facilities. In the 1950s and 1960s important features were added including the Lady Norwood Rose Garden and the Begonia and Lily Houses. There are also many notable trees – both native and exotic. The Duck Pond, originally a muddy area where two streams met, has also been called the Frog Pond and the Swan Pond in the past. Former Wellington Mayor Sir Charles Norwood and his family have been generous benefactors to the Garden.

1 BOTANIC GARDEN

In recognition of the early settlers who set aside the land as a botanic garden in 1844. Built in 1925 and named in 1991.

A. Founders’ Entrance; 1925

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Plimmer family in Wellington.

B. Joy Fountain; AF Fraser; 1946

A stone figure surmounting a fountain. One hundred dollars was bequested in 1839 by MJ Kilgour but it was not built until 1946. The fountain was refurbished in 2008.

C. Centennial Sundial; Sundials Australia; 1993


D. Sundial of Human Involvement; Charles Stone, 1991

Tawhitirame; Cliff Whiting, 1984

A mural in the lobby of the New Zealand Meteorological Service building. The mural depicts events in the Māori creation myth.

E. Body to Soul; Mary-Louise Brown, 1996

A black granite staircase with 13 steps engraved with a word sequence BODY to SOUL.

F. Rudderstone; Denis O’Connor, 1987

To be walked or passed through. Made from Brazilian Azul marble, Italian Carrara marble and black fossil marble.

G. Listening and Viewing Device; Andrew Drummond, 1994

Most of copper and weighing over one tonne. It was constructed in Christchurch in two pieces and transported to Wellington by truck. The original plan to lift the two pieces into place with the Westpac helicopter had to be called off when it was found that its weight was greater than estimated. An Iroquois helicopter had to be called in from Takaroa to finish the job.

H. Inner Form; Henry Moore

A stone from the former Hiroshima Town Hall and a gift from Northland. Presented to the city by Fletcher Challenge Ltd in 1988 under the Arts Bonus Scheme after negotiations with the Wellington Sculpture Trust. It was originally placed in Midland Park and moved to its present site in 1995.

I. Peacemaker; Chris Booth, 1991

Comprising basalt boulders given by the Ngati Kura iwi of Northland. Peacemaker particularly attempts to communicate the choice of being peaceful among human beings.

J. Peace Flame; 1994

Holding a flame ignited by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Presented by the Japanese people to New Zealand in salute to the country’s unilateral steps against atomic weapons through its Anti-Nuclear Act.

K. Hiroshima Stone; 1998

A stone from the former Hiroshima Town Hall and a gift from the city of Hiroshima.

L. Bolton Street Memorial Park; 1925


2 CABLE CAR

The Upland Estate Company proposed the construction of a tramline to link the city centre to its planned suburb of Kelburn. Designed by noted engineer James Fulton, construction began in 1901 and was carried out right and day with much of the work being done by prisoners from the Taranaki Gaol. This is the last operating cable car in New Zealand. Visit the Cable Car Museum, located in the building which housed the original winding gear. Here you can see one of the historic cable cars and a trailer along with displays and the winding equipment.

3 DOMINION OBSERVATORY

Built in 1907 and originally known as the Hector Observatory, it was renamed the Dominion Observatory in 1925. The observatory was the place where the day of the week was accurately determined for the whole of New Zealand using astronomical observations. It played an international role as part of a global network of timekeeping observatories. There was also a direct cable link to Parliament and the wooden Government Building’s clock to ensure that both politicians and public servants would be consistently on time. From 1916 the building was also the site of New Zealand’s first seismic research.

4 BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK

This historic cemetery first opened in 1840 where it lay on the outskirts of the new town, serving all its non-Catholic inhabitants. A single, shared town cemetery, rather than individual church graveyards, was a new concept in England at this time and this liberal concept was welcomed in the town cemetery, rather than individual church graveyards, was a new concept in England at this time and this liberal concept was welcomed in Wellington.

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M) SEDDON MEMORIAL

At the highest point is the Seddon Memorial, erected to the memory of New Zealand’s longest-serving Prime Minister, Richard John Seddon, who led the country from 1893–1906.

N) MEMORIAL TO HARRY HOLLAND; 1937

Also located in the park is a memorial to Harry Holland, the first leader of the New Zealand Labour Party, to commemorate his work for humanity.

O) REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL ANGLICAN MORTUARY CHAPEL; 1980

Originally built in 1666 and replicated in 1990. It contains historical displays, artifacts, a register of burials and pamphlets.

P) SEXTON’S COTTAGE

One of the oldest houses in Wellington – the former Sexton’s Cottage built in 1857 by Charles Mills and men of the 65th Regiment. It was restored in 1979.