

Mt Victoria Historical Society News

No. 12, October 1999



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November Event

The last event for the year is a strictly-member's-only garden tour. We have put together a walking tour of six beautiful, interesting and varied gardens in historical Mount Victoria, whose owners are happy to share them with us.

Garden Tour - Sunday November 21

The tour will start at 78 Roxburgh Street at 2.00 pm and the group will move en masse from there to the tour's end in Porritt Avenue (about 5.00 pm). At the last address in Porritt Avenue there will be a cup of tea for those who wish.

If a postponement is necessary due to bad weather, participants will be advised by midday on November 21. If that happens, the tour will be held instead on Sunday November 28 at the same time.

RSVPs are essential, so we can advise our hosts and note attendance. Please phone Joanna Newman on 385 2254 or Rachel McFarlane on 384 4388 by Wednesday November 17 if you would like to come.

New Committee

At the AGM in September most members of the committee stood for re-election but unfortunately Christine Marshall resigned as secretary. We now welcome Ursula Curtis, however, as a new committee member.

Submission on the District Plan

The Society recently made an oral submission on variation 14 of the District Plan, following an earlier written submission. Essentially, our submission sought confirmation of the rule restricting demolition of older buildings and control on the design of new multi-unit development as set out in original proposal for Variation 14. In addition, we also sought the insertion of a requirement for demolition of pre-1930 houses to be notified.

The reason for this was that we believe it is essential that the whole character of Mt Victoria be protected and the entire area be accorded heritage status, not just small enclaves. We agreed that, as stated in the Design Guide for Multi-unit Housing, certain areas have "a visual amenity and heritage value which warrants a greater degree of care and consideration in design" but not that the rules should apply only to these character sub-areas.

The tribunal's decision has been released since our last committee meeting, but it does not allow for notification of demolition. No decision has yet been made on what, if any, further action will be taken.

Streets of Mount Victoria

There has been huge interest in our booklet, "Streets of Mount Victoria". If you haven't received your free copy yet, or would like copies for friends or other reasons, please contact Joanna Newman on 385 2254. Price to non-members is \$3.00.

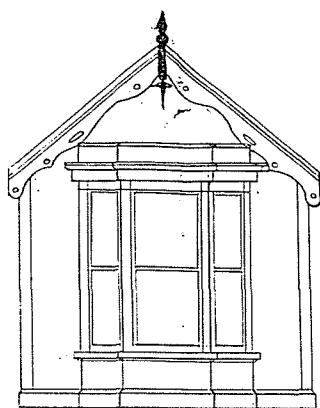
Historical Note

Early Builders in Mount Victoria

The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand, Volume 1- Wellington Provincial District, 1897 includes an article on a prominent citizen and resident of Mount Victoria who was a builder and contractor. The entry on him reads as follows:

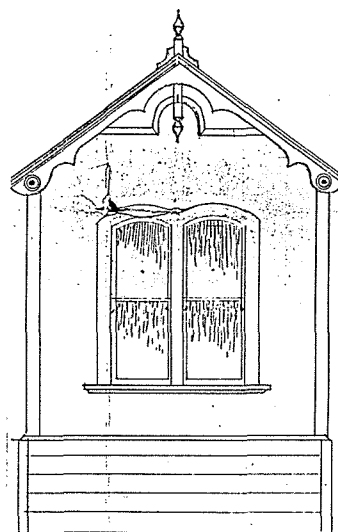
"Baker, George, Builder and Contractor, 70 Brougham Street, Wellington. Mr. Baker was born in London in 1840, and arrived at Wellington, by the ship "Lady Nugent," with his parents a year later. When he was old enough, he worked with his father, Mr George Baker, senior, who was one of the pioneers of the building trade. In his father's company, he visited Victoria when a young man, and was at Ballarat. When his father returned to Wellington, the subject of this notice came with him, making his home at Baker's Hill, Karori. He worked as a journeyman carpenter for a few years, and then entered into business on his own account. Mr. Baker was married in Wellington, and has twelve children – five sons and seven daughters. For many years past he has lived in his present residence in Brougham Street. His contracts have been almost exclusively private residences, and he now has his time mostly occupied in building properties on his own account. He has been a member of the Rechabite Order for the past eighteen years. Mr. Baker is a hale and hearty gentleman, and it is hoped that he will live for many years to enjoy the competence he has earned by assiduous devotion to business."

Original drawings of some of the houses built by George Baker in Mt Victoria are shown below.



FRONT ELEVATION.

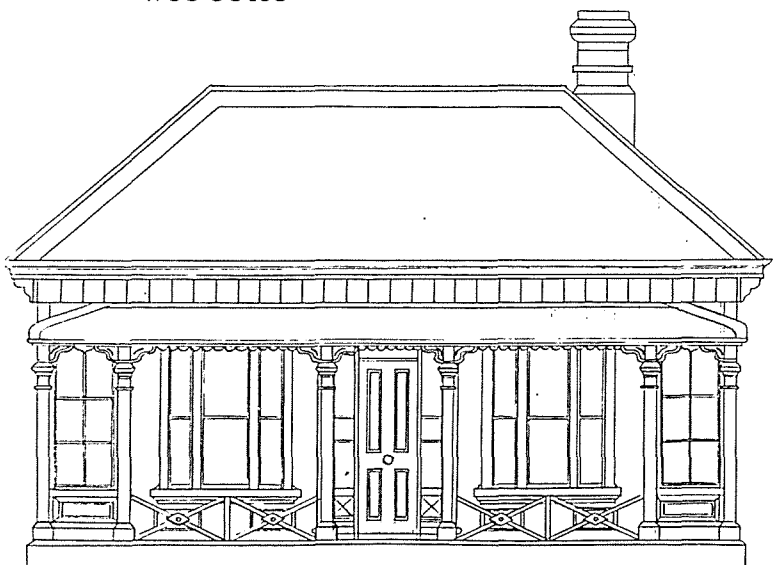
Brougham St, 28.3.1893 (poss. 110 and/or 112)
Also owned by G. Baker
WCC OC498



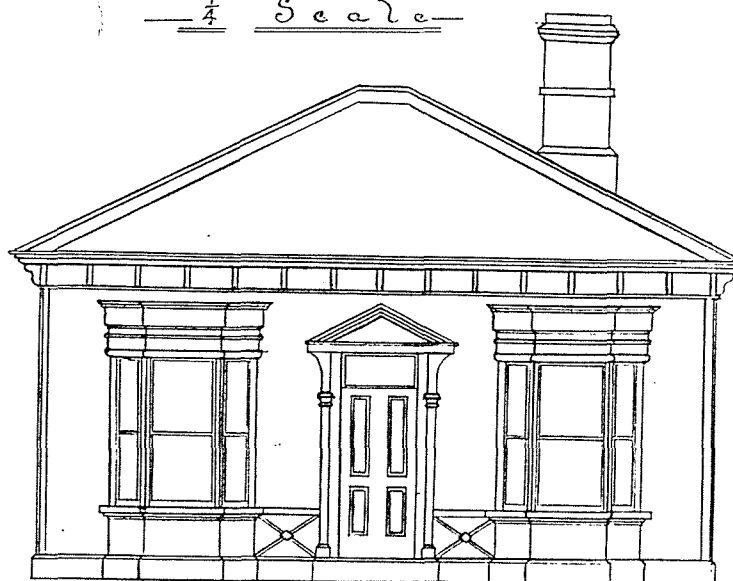
*front
Elevation*

Off Austin St
9.7.1896
Built for EW Petherick
WCC OC1719

1/4 Scale



Off Austin St, 2.4.1896
Also owned by G Baker
WCC OC1574



Ellice Avenue, 28.6.1897 (now 20 Porritt Ave & 12 Albany Ave)
Also owned by G Baker
WC OC2213