



Paterson Street, Mount Victoria A History and Walking Guide

Behind two-storeyed, Victorian 142 Austin Street, under the grassy slope, lies the entrance to the pilot for a second Mt Victoria tunnel.

In 1931, the existing Mt Victoria motor vehicle tunnel was officially opened. Just over 30 years later, in the mid-1960's, the growth in traffic to and from the airport, as well as increased industrial and housing activity in the eastern suburbs, were putting strain on the tunnel and the streets around it. The City Council therefore proposed, in 1964, building an additional tunnel, along with improved access and approaches. After several years of debate and lobbying the National Road Board approved finance in 1968 so that the work could proceed as part of Wellington's overall motorway development.

The new tunnel was to run parallel on the eastern side of the existing one. They would operate as a one-way pair, with two outward-bound lanes of traffic in the new tunnel, and two inward in the existing tunnel. The Ministry of Works and the Council came up with a plan which would see the tunnel completed by 1975.

The City Engineer's Department carried out the design work for the proposed tunnel and approaches, as well as for the pilot tunnel which was dug as part of the feasibility studies between 1972 and 1973. The project did not go ahead, however, because the National Road Board turned it down in 1973 due to lack of funds. It then lapsed until 1979, when the Road Board agreed in principle to the extension of the motorway through to Ruahine Street. This plan did not proceed, either, and the tunnel proposal was finally shelved.

Now talk of constructing this second tunnel has resurfaced. If it goes ahead, it would destroy an area of great heritage significance to Wellington and Mt Victoria.

This guide, prepared by Mt Victoria Historical Society, allows you to take a walk down Paterson Street and learn about its rich history.

Starting at the top of Paterson Street, where it meets Austin Street and just outside the gates of Wellington East Girls College, a short walk down towards Brougham Street reveals a long and fascinating history. It is evident today in a number of buildings which are far too important to Wellington's story to be lost.

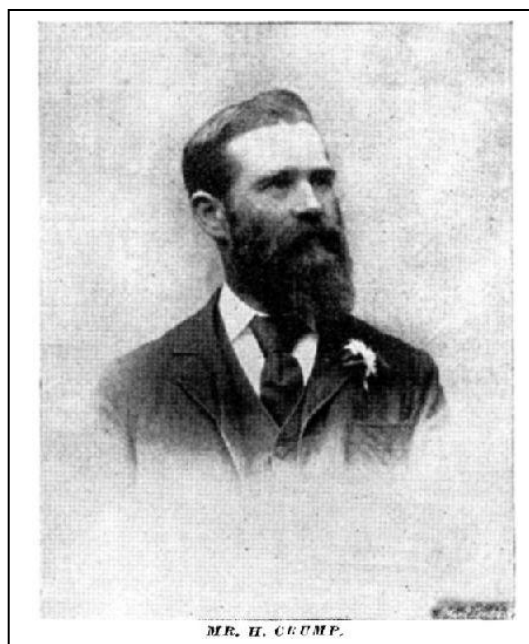
Paterson Street

Paterson Street is named after the Reverend James Paterson. He was one of the Colony's leading churchmen and retired from the charge of St. John's Presbyterian Church in 1903. Probably significantly for the naming of the street, he was also Governor of nearby Wellington College and, from 1877 to 1903, a member of its Senate.

Paterson arrived in New Zealand in 1868. His early work required a pioneering spirit: journeys from Wellington to Wanganui on horseback took two and a half days and were often full of dangers. An anecdote from these days tells of his meeting with Featherston in a little accommodation house in Waikanae after both got wet travelling on horseback up the coast. Paterson was drying his sermon in front of the fire, when Featherston said "Take it up to the pulpit Mr Paterson; it will soon be dry."¹ When he retired, the Church's Sunday Schools had reached their peak, with 946 children and 76 teachers. He died in 1925 at the age of 96.

Paterson Street was not originally named after the Reverend, however; nor did it extend so far as to meet up with Austin Street. It was initially a small private street running just 545 feet up from Brougham Street to a dead end. It was constructed and owned by an early Wellington developer, Harry Crump, on Wellington College Reserve land in 1900 and he named it Lauriston Street. Crump had bought the two town acres bordering what became the street in 1897. When the Reverend Paterson died in 1904, three city councillors successfully sought the change of name to Paterson Street in his honour. It was not until 1917 that it became a public street.

In 1897, Harry Crump bought the two town acres alongside the road. He then gradually built about 12 substantial dwellings on the land and sold off lots.



Harry Crump, circa 1897. *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, NZ Electronic Text Centre

Harry Crump was born in Yorkshire and spent some of his early life in America. He served his apprenticeship as a builder when he returned to Yorkshire and came to New Zealand in 1880. In addition to his own building projects, Harry Crump was involved in the construction of estates and buildings in partnership with John Thomas Hawthorn and Colin Campbell Crump. One example of his work with Hawthorn and Crump is Kensington Street, which was developed between 1903 and 1904, under the name of the Kensington Estate Company. Harry Crump's legacy is an enduring contribution to the built heritage of Wellington and the shape of the historic suburb of Mt Victoria.

42 Austin Street

The house at 142 Austin Street was built by Harry Crump in 1902. Its exterior is still in its original form.

¹ Early Settlers Journal Vol. 1 No. 4

19 Paterson St, Ettrick Cottage

Ettrick Cottage was moved to Paterson Street from 7 Austin Street in 1994 amidst great controversy and as a result of the illegal activities of a developer.

Built of heart rimu and originally a basic rectangle, this was one of the first houses in Austin St, dating from somewhere between 1871-1874. In 1874 it was sold by its builder-owner, Mr Storey to Samuel Atkins. The double gable "U" shaped extension was probably made some time in the very early 1880's.



Samuel Atkins on the porch of Ettrick Cottage, 7 Austin St, with his wife and 2 daughters
Photograph courtesy of Jim Atkins (descendant) Australia

Samuel Atkins was a former sergeant in the Seaforth Highlanders. He had been much decorated for his military services, including receiving The Persian Medal and the Indian Mutiny (Bar for Defence of Lucknow). He was a nightwatchman during his working life in Wellington and was for many years an identity about town. Sam's wife, Marion, was born about 50 miles from Ettrick Forest in Scotland. Ettrick Forest was also associated with a well-known Scottish poet and writer, so this is probably why they named their cottage, Ettrick.

In 1901 he was presented to the Duke of York during the world tour of the Duke and Duchess and congratulated on his splendid military record. That year, when the Seaforth Highlanders visited Wellington, it was reported: "Sam Atkins has been looking forward, with all the zeal and anxiety of a bride for her wedding day, to the coming of the troops, and from an early hour on Saturday he strutted the town dressed, like Hooligan, in "his best suit o' clothes." The uniform was resplendent in its newness and cast something of a reflection upon those of the Seaforths at the head of whom Sam proudly strode. But not for long did he keep it up – the pace was too much for the old man, who found he was not so young as he used to be."² Sam was 77 at the time.

He also attended a reception for decorated war veterans held by Lord Kitchener during his visit to New Zealand in 1910.

² New Zealand Free Lance, 16 October 1901



Samuel Atkins (centre with the splendid white beard) at the reception for Lord Kitchener, 1910
Alexander Turnbull Library 1/2-049591-F

Samuel died in 1917 at the age of 93 and engraved on his headstone in Karori Cemetery was "Hold the Fort". One of his unmarried daughters, Marion, lived on in Ettrick cottage until she died in 1945. Another daughter, Alice, who had run a flourishing dress-making business, died in 1955 and she was the last of the Atkins family to live at 7 Austin Street. This home, therefore, was in the Atkins family for 81 years.

17 Paterson Street

Owned and built by Crump in 1901.

11 Paterson Street

Owned and built by Crump in 1902.

9 Paterson Street

Owned and built by Crump in 1902.



7 Paterson Street

7 Paterson Street is the most interesting of all the houses on the street, with one of the longest and most fascinating histories of any residence in Wellington.

It was built in 1869 by William Waring Taylor. The house sits on the original Town Acre 673, which Taylor bought in 1868 along with the adjacent Town Acre 672. He had been leasing them since at least 1863 (possibly for pasturing horses because the land was fenced). He had been living in Thorndon but, while this house was being built, rented an eight-room house in Majoribanks St. In January 1869, tenders were invited for a house to be built for him here, designed by Nicholas Marchant, architect.³ It was valued at £750 in 1869.

³ Evening Post 15 January 1869 (Papers past)

Described it as a fine example of “fancy colonial” style by Terence Hodgson in his book *Proud Possessions*, he writes: “The verandahs have been given a juicy assortment of decoration including brackets, lattice work, pierced balustrading and bold expanses of glazing” although the walls were sheathed with corrugated iron.”



From Terence E.R. Hodgson, *Proud Possessions: Architectural Style and the Old New Zealand House*, 2003

Notable residents of the house have been:

1869 - 1878: William Waring Taylor

William Waring Taylor was born around 1819 in Yorkshire and arrived in Wellington in 1842. He established a general business and importing agency and dealt in land, wool, cattle, clothing and “piece goods and commodities of every kind”. Even leeches appear now and then in his advertisements. In 1848 he married Mary Knox. He bought Customhouse Wharf in 1860, and owned considerable property in Wellington and estates in the Rangitikei district.

In 1860 he also became Member of the House of Representatives for Wellington City and Deputy Superintendent of Wellington Province, serving as its speaker for a decade from 1865. By the 1870's he had grown rich and respectable and Waring Taylor Street in the heart of the city was named in his honour.

Unfortunately, however, Waring Taylor was also known as “a kindly, well-meaning muddler”. In 1878, for instance, the City Council dealt with the issue of Waring Taylor building on the Te Aro foreshore on land which he did not own.

On November 21 1884, Taylor was arrested for fraud at his home, Carnarvon, near Bulls. The charge was that he “converted to his own use 25 fully paid-up shares in the Bank of New Zealand (£250 worth), the property of Ernest Arundel”. In fact, three charges were laid against him, “the total amount of monies alleged to have been misappropriated being about £10,000”. The most serious charge related to fraudulently appropriating money as a trustee or agent and the others were for wrongfully endeavouring to obtain a loan from a loan company and obtaining money by falsely representing the discovery of a goldfield.

When he came up for sentencing the Evening Post reported: “During his incarceration in the Terrace Gaol Taylor has grown much stouter, and his whiskers and moustache have become much longer. As he advanced to the prisoner's stand it was seen that he was trembling in every limb and wearing a very anxious look.” He was described as being an old man in his 66th year and as having spent 43 years in the city. He was tried, convicted on only one indictment and sentenced to five years in jail. There was a move to have the name Waring Taylor wiped from the face of Wellington in 1885, by changing the name of the street commemorating him, but enough Councillors felt his earlier contributions deserved to be remembered and it stayed.

Waring Taylor had a sister, Mary, who became a close friend of Charlotte Bronte while she was at school in Yorkshire. By 1841 her unorthodoxy became apparent when she declared that she proposed to emigrate to New Zealand with her youngest brother, Waring. Charlotte Bronte wrote to her sister, Emily:

“Mary Taylor and Waring have come to a singular determination, but I think under the peculiar circumstances a defensible one, though it sounds outrageously odd at first. They are going to emigrate – to quit the country altogether. Their destination unless they change is Port Nicholson, in the northern island of New Zealand!!! Mary has made up her mind she can not

and will not be a governess, a teacher, a milliner, a bonnet maker nor a housemaid. She sees no means of obtaining employment she would like in England, so she is leaving it!"

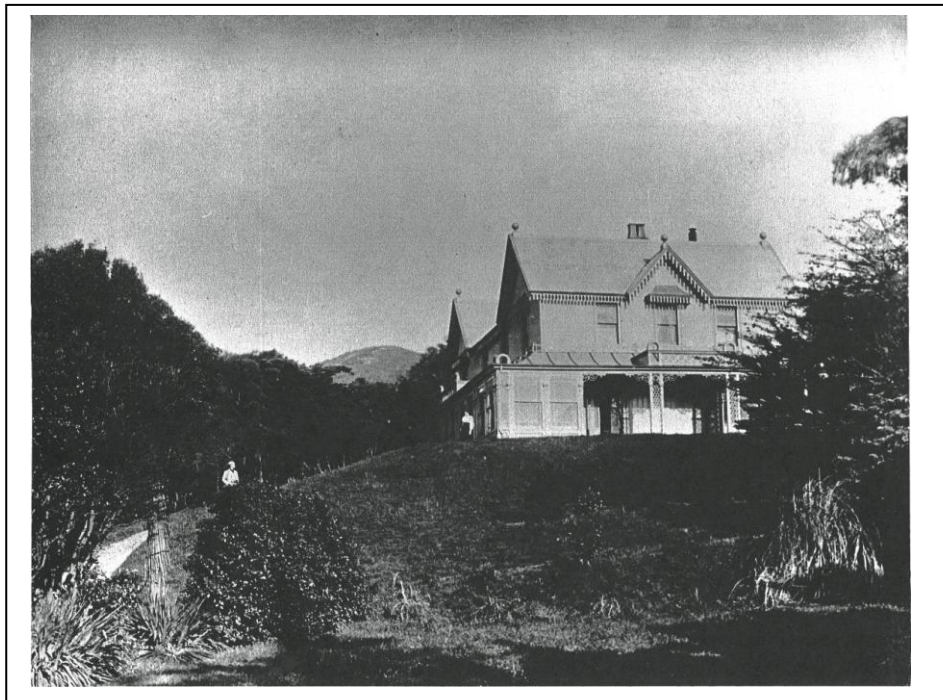
When she arrived in New Zealand in 1845, Waring Taylor helped his sister and her cousin set up a shop, including teaching them bookkeeping.

Although Mary had returned to England by the time Waring took up residence at 7 Paterson Street she, too, must have been a frequent visitor to Mt Victoria. In 1848 she wrote to Charlotte Bronte:

"About a month since, I have received and read Jane Eyre. It seems to me incredible that you had actually written a book. Your novel surprised me as being so perfect as a work of art . . . Such events did not happen when I was in England. After I had read it, I went on to the top of Mt Victoria and looked for a ship to carry a letter to you. There was a little thing with one mast, and also H.M.S. Fly and nothing else. If a cattle vessel came from Sydney she would take the mail, but we have had East wind for a month and nothing can come in."

1878 - 1879: William Lowes

Waring Taylor sold the two adjacent Town Acres and this house to William Lowes in 1878. Little is known about him except that he was a saddler and widower when he married a widow, Isabella Cameron, in 1868. Interestingly, the witnesses to their marriage were Waring Taylor's wife, Mary, and Houston Francis Logan.



7 Paterson Street in the 1890's
Alexander Turnbull Library 1/2-017986F

1879 - 1895: Houston Francis Logan

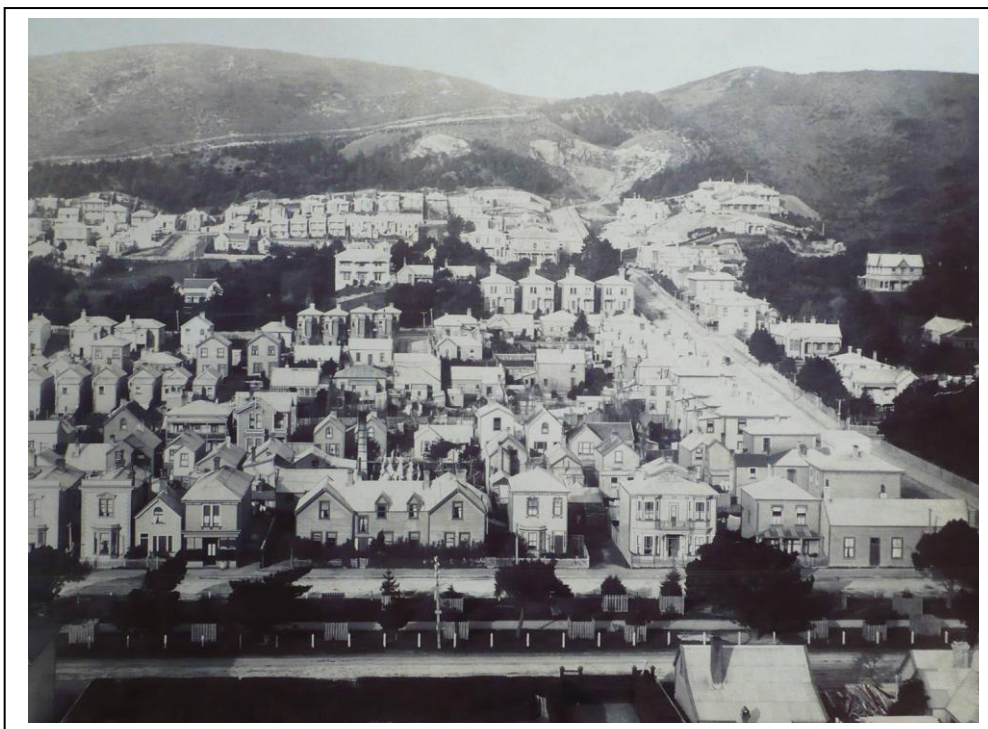
Measured by property, Houston Francis Logan is estimated⁴ to have been among the top ten richest people in Wellington in 1882. He was by far the wealthiest person to live in Mt Victoria in the 1880's and owned other Mt Victoria properties as well as Town Acres 672 and 673. Most wealthy people at that time, and for quite some time after, lived in Thorndon.

⁴ By Jeremy Lowe, researcher, Thorndon Society. Many thanks to Jeremy for sharing his research with us.

Houston was the son of Dr Francis Logan, who had visited New Zealand as a surgeon in the Royal Navy in 1837. He must have liked what he saw because he returned to Glasgow but immigrated to Wellington in 1840 on the *Bengal Merchant* with his wife and baby Houston.

Logan inherited property from his father but, in his own right, also had two grocery businesses (in Lambton Quay and Cuba Street from 1866-1884), a number of rental properties and rural properties running sheep. In 1868 he was gazetted a Captain in the New Zealand Militia and was still on the Unattached List (made up of those who had served their country and “retired on their laurels”, but who could be called on to assist in the event that there were insufficient officers on the active list available for an emergency) in 1897. He also represented Te Aro Ward on the City Council from September 1877 to September 1893.

After selling this section, Logan returned to Mt Victoria in the late 1890's to live the last 20 or so years of his life in a house where No 72 Brougham St (Embassy Court Flats) now stands. He died in 1922.



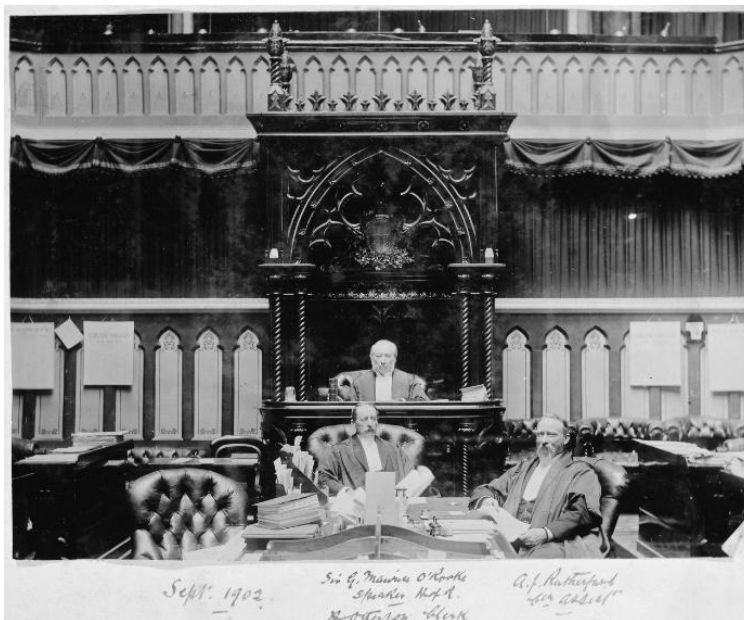
The southern end of Mt Victoria c. 1895, showing the Waring Taylor house far right.

1895 - 1897: Alexander John Rutherford

The next owner and occupant of the house was Alexander Rutherford. He, too, owned the two adjacent Town Acres 672 and 673. Rutherford was Second Clerk Assistant of the House and Honorary Secretary of the Acclimatization Society.

Rutherford is seated right front in this photograph in the debating chamber of the House of Representatives in 1902.

Alexander Turnbull Library ½-168927-F



1897 – 1909: Harry Crump⁵

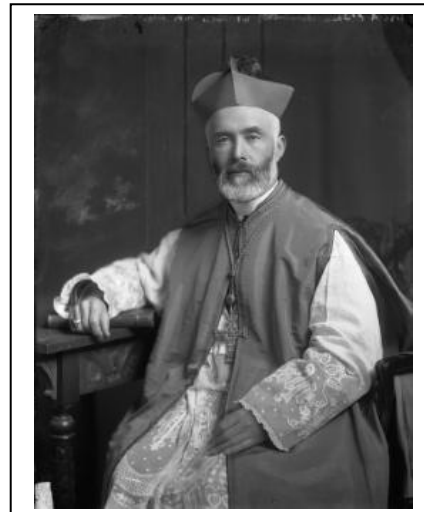
Crump owned Town Acres 672 and 673 from 1897 to 1909 and lived at No. 7 for this period. In 1907/08, he tried to sell it to Charles Odlin, but the sale fell through. In 1909 it was bought (part of TA 672 and 673 only) by Archbishop Redwood and Father O'Shea for the Catholic Church.

1909 – 1989: Roman Catholic Church

In 1909, 7 Paterson St became a residence for Father O'Shea and the priest serving Te Aro. O'Shea was consecrated Archbishop in 1913 and a torchlight procession went from Paterson Street, down Ellice Street to his consecration in the Town Hall.¹ From that point on, it became known as Archbishop's House. Archbishop O'Shea resided at no. 7 until he was hospitalised prior to his death in 1954.

In July 1915 additions designed by John S Swan were made to the Presbytery.¹

Archbishop O'Shea, 1913
Alexander Turnbull Library 1/1-014513-G



Then, in 1936, some small alterations were made to the main building and the Art Deco building was constructed in front of the house, with internal access between the two buildings. At this time, we know the layout of the original building and who was living there: upstairs to the right was Archbishop O'Shea's room; next door the Oratory and then on the left was Dr McRae's room. At the back, behind Dr McRae's room, was Father Heavey's and behind the Archbishop's, Father Fletcher's.

In the 1980's the Good Shepard Sisters who took over Bishop Snedden's house in Paterson St.

In 1989 it was acquired for motorway purposes under the Public Works Act and up until October of that year it had been occupied by Catholic Social Services.⁶

No. 7 Paterson Street is now owned by Transit New Zealand, like all the property along the street.

3 and 5 Paterson Street

These two houses, very different from Crump's and with ornate decoration, were owned and built by DM Owens in 1909. At one stage No. 3 was the manse for the Kent Terrace Presbyterian Church.

151 Brougham Street

Built by H Crump for Henry Robert Lawry, banker, in 1904

Lawry had been the first occupant of No. 147 Brougham Street before construction of this house. He was born in 1853 at Ihumatao on the southern shores of Manukau Harbour where his father, Reverend Henry Hassall Lawry, was a Wesleyan Missionary. He spent some of his boyhood at Waima Mission Station on the Hokianga before the family settled in Auckland. He was educated at Prince Albert College before joining the BNZ at age 16. His grandfather had also been a

⁵ Cook Ward rate book 1897/98

⁶ 00009:1405:45/401

missionary, arriving in New South Wales as the second Wesleyan missionary there in 1818, and later appointed General Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in New Zealand, Tonga and Fiji⁷.

145 and 147 Brougham Street

These two houses, along with the original No. 143, were built to the same plan by Harry Crump in 1899. No. 145 still looks almost exactly the same as the day it was built.

Harry Kersley, of George & Kersley, Drapers, lived at 145 when it was built, and Henry Lawry, described then as accountant for the Bank of New Zealand, lived at No. 147.

George and Kersley Ltd's Wellington store, 'the Economic', is considered the first department store in New Zealand to hold a Santa 'parade'. In 1905 they invited local boys and girls to come and see 'Mother and Father Christmas' arrive at the railway station.⁸

⁷ Forty Years On: the development of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists 1967-2007, pub NZ Society of Genealogists Inc, 2007, ed Vivienne M Parker, pg 94

⁸ <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/interactive/santa-parades>