

# Historical Note

## Early Builders in Mount Victoria

The Cyclopedia 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

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