



# Mt VICTORIA

## Historical Society News

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#### Annual General Meeting

If you weren't able to attend the AGM in September, here's an update on the committee for 2019/20: Convenor - Jo Newman; Secretary - Jane O'Loughlin; Treasurer - Colin Carr; committee members - Alan Olliver, Rosemary Bromley and Phil Kelliher. It's great to have such strength in the committee, with our numbers up to six, and we're looking forward to an active year.

#### New project

The committee is in the initial stages of investigating the possibility of heritage plaques for Mt Victoria buildings. It's an idea we've had on the back-burner for a number of years and, at this stage, we're still developing our few ideas. We believe this would allow Mt Vic residents an opportunity to display their pride in occupying and maintaining a heritage home, raise awareness of other residents and the wider Wellington community of the unique heritage we have here, and provide interesting visible information for visitors and residents. The vision includes tying the plaques in to walking guides in future, so people can explore the heritage of Mt Victoria.

We'll keep you posted as we develop the concept. In the meantime, if you have thoughts on the project do let us know, and there may be ways you can help us in its implementation in future.

#### Donations

We are lucky to have some generous members who add donations to their subscriptions. We've recently been advised by Inland Revenue that it is now easier for those members to claim a tax credit. Once registered for a myIR account, you can upload receipts at any time, as photos, scans or electronic documents (we now send receipts for donations to members as pdfs, via email).

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#### Historical Note

### Hutchinson-Cochran House, 31 Brougham Street

It might be set back from the street and difficult to see behind twin garages, but the elegant, hipped-roof cottage at 31 Brougham Street has played a large part in the history of Mt Victoria's development.

The story of this house began in 1851 when Scottish-born Barbara and Walter Hutchinson arrived in Wellington. Walter had studied law but was told to find somewhere more suitable for his health. The couple initially tried to farm in the Orongorongo, lived briefly in Thorndon and then bought five town acres – 337 (in 1857) and 335, 336, 344 and 345 in 1858 – in the heart of Mt Victoria. By 1857, the couple built a small cottage at what is now 31 Brougham Street.



The Hutchinson's cottage (arrowed) in 1870. (PA7-48-10, Alexander Turnbull Library)

## Historical Note (continued)

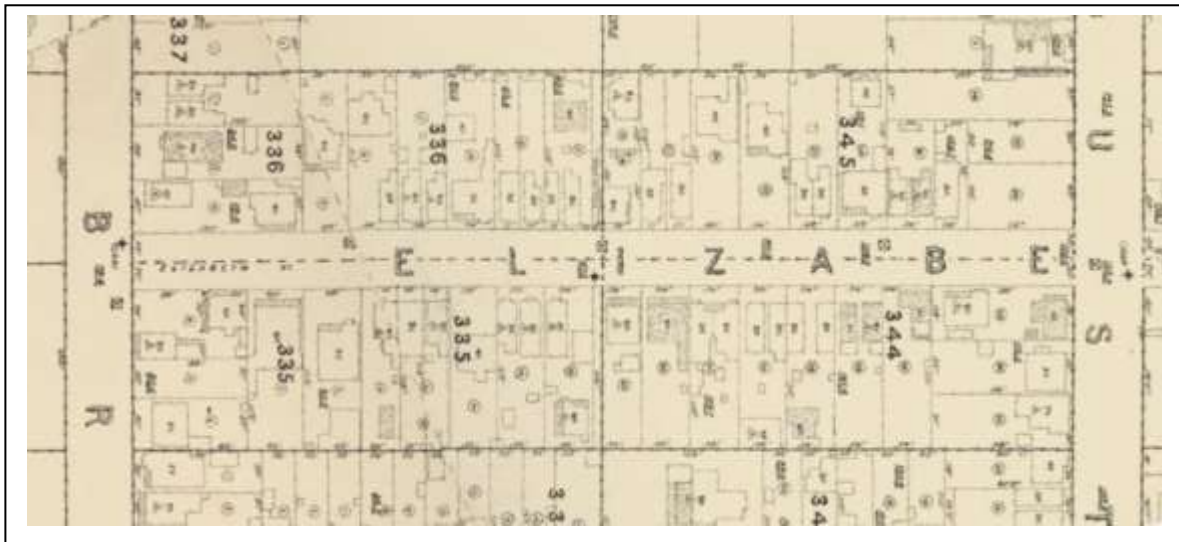
Barbara and Walter had three daughters (Anna, Agnes and Margaret), two of whom were born in the house, and a son, born after Walter Hutchinson died in 1864, aged just 43. Sadly, this son, also known as Walter, died at age 14 months.

Barbara remarried in 1870, to law clerk Denison Cochran; he moved into the Hutchinson home but Barbara retained her property. After acquiring a Crown Grant for her land in 1871, she began selling off Town Acres 335 and 336. Along with the later sale of 344 and 345, this allowed for the formation of Elizabeth Street - from Brougham Street to Austin Street. It was here, away from the suburb's grander boulevards, that working-class Wellingtonians could buy land and build cottages. A number of the original houses on this street still survive.



Above: The rebuilt house, pictured from the rear in 1884. (BB-2235-1-1-G, Alexander Turnbull Library)

Below: The Ward Map, 1891, showing the development of the town acres surrounding Elizabeth Street. (Wellington City Archives)



Then, in 1892, a cottage was built behind No.31. A private way, now known as Batham Drive, was formed to give access to the rear of the section. (It was originally Brougham Drive but renamed Batham after Miss Alitheia Batham, the first Principal of Wellington East Girl's College.)

After the deaths of Denison and Barbara Cochran in 1896, her daughters, two of whom never married, began renting out her houses, beginning with no.31. In 1900, or thereabouts, no.33 was converted by the Hutchinson daughters into a private hospital, known initially as Banff House, then Brougham Hospital, and it retained that use until at least 1960.

The Hutchinson-Cochran home at 31 Brougham Street was sold in the early 1920s to Ada and Francis Jensen and they built the two brick garages on the front of the section. The entrance to the property runs between those garages. Since Ada Jensen's death in 1978, the house has had a number of owners and occupants and there have been changes to the interior and to the rear of the house. Nevertheless, much of the house remains intact and its historical connection to the area is undimmed.