

HERITAGE WALK

Karangahape Road



FREE GUIDED WALKS

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Architectural & Social History

Tour Guide Edward Bennett
Karangahape Road Historian

Walk 1. Karangahape Road

Walk 2. Symonds Street Cemetery

Walk 3. Grafton Bridge

Walk 4. Myers Park & Greys Avenue

Cover image

Copy of Michelangelo's Moses (1515) in Myers Park

This marble statue was imported by the Milne & Choyce Department Store as part of their centenary celebrations in 1971 and subsequently donated to the city. In the background is the 1926 Spanish mission style Espano Flats by A.Sinclair O'Connor.

Myers Park was opened in 1916 and named in honour of Arthur Mielziner Myers, Mayor of Auckland 1905 to 1909. In 1913, Myers, donated ten thousand pounds to purchase land to create this park and build the Kindergarten Building (Chilwell & Trevithick). Myers championed several projects in Auckland including the 1911 Town Hall and the 1910 Grafton Bridge (see also 12) and was knighted in 1924.

Self Guided Walks

Map at centre of book

Buildings are best viewed from the opposite side of the road. Please be aware that most are private property. Each walk is less than two hours.

Scheduled Buildings

Auckland City Council District Plan

- A** A building, object or place of outstanding natural beauty, or architectural, scientific or historical significance.
- B** A building, object or place of such quality that they should not be removed, damaged or altered significantly.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust

- I** A place of special or outstanding historical or cultural value.
- II** A place of historical or cultural value.
- ★ An award winning building or structure.



Hocken Collections

Karangahape Road – K' Road

What does Karangahape mean?

According to Maori oral tradition and mythology Hape was an ancient Maori ancestor who travelled from Rarotonga on the back of a stingray arriving on the shores of Mangere. Hape greeted the Tainui waka on its arrival with a 'karanga' or greeting – hence "karangahape". Karangahape is also said to mean "a winding ridge of human activity".

'Auckland from the Karangahape ridge'

When Captain William Hobson founded the town of Auckland in 1840 the landscape had few large trees. Most of the vegetation covering the isthmus was low-lying or sparse in nature; cabbage trees, manuka, bracken, and flax. This 1855 water colour by the Reverend John Kinder shows the view from the verandah of Scoria House looking north towards the town of Auckland. The house was built at the head of the gully formed by the Waihorotiu Stream (the Queen Street River). This gully is now Myers Park.



Auckland Museum Library



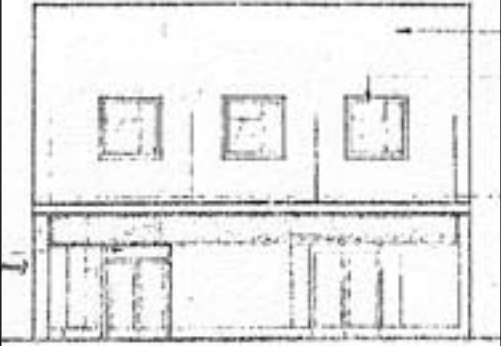
Auckland Museum Library

1. Scoria House, The Nathan Home 183-207 Karangahape Road

This Regency style house was designed by architect Walter Robertson for Jewish merchant David Nathan. Built in 1845, it was called Scoria House because it was constructed of local volcanic stone when most buildings were of wood. From 1848 to 1851 it was used as Government House by Sir George Grey. After being bought by bootmaker Thomas Keven in 1853 it was called "Mr. Keven's house". During the period of the New Zealand Wars, 1857-65, it was occupied by General Sir Duncan Cameron, Commander of the British Forces in New Zealand. Later when used as the officers' mess of the Royal Irish Regiment it became known as St Kevens. It retained the name after it re-entered the possession of the Nathan family in the 1880s. It was demolished around 1922. Three buildings including St. Kevin's Arcade were constructed on the site of the house and its garden. (See also 23.)

2.3.4. Rendells, Pascoes, W. Peet & Sons 184, 202, 208 Karangahape Road

The Rendells Department Store was designed by William Holman in the Renaissance style. The right hand portion of the façade is from 1904, the left hand from 1911. The brickwork on each is a slightly different tone. John Rendell and his wife had opened their first clothing shop on the corner of Grey & Pitt Sts in the 1880s. The premises of Pascoes Jewellers and W. Peet & Sons Grocers are examples of the Neo-Greek style popular in the 1920s.



Auckland Museum Library

5. Selfridges (NZ) Ltd Building
146 Karangahape Road

Selfridges was a department store/emporium which employed around 30 staff. In 1957 the émigré architects, Plischke & Fantl were employed to remodel the building and create this late example of Bauhaus style. The Czech Fantl and Austrian Plischke were two of several refugees from Nazism to relocate here. Ernst Plische worked mostly for the New Zealand Government designing State Housing before returning to Austria in 1963.

6.7. National Bank ★ & St Benedicts
122 Karangahape Road

The National Bank from 1993 by Brendan Rawson for Andrews Scott Cotton Architects is in a Post-Modern ~ De-Constructivist style. On the hill to the south is the 1886 Roman Catholic Church of St Benedict. Built in brick in the Flemish Gothic style, its planned spire was never built. By Edward Mahoney, it replaced an earlier wooden church of his design which had burnt down.

8.9.10. 1920s Shops
80-94 Karangahape Road

The photographer G. St. John Biggs took this photo circa 1929. His studio was located in the Newton Pharmacy building. Biggs was one of the many photographers to have a studio on Karangahape Road. The turreted Kings Cross building by the firm of Holman, Moses & Watkins is of glazed brick. The Gazes Building to the left and Newton Pharmacy to the right are in the Neo-Greek style popular in the 1920s.



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11. Tram Shelter II

Corner Symonds Street & Grafton Bridge

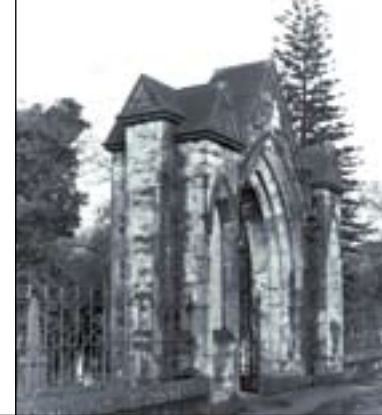
In 1902 public transport in Auckland was revolutionized when horse-drawn trams were superseded by electric trams. Several tram routes passed the busy Grafton Bridge/Symonds Street/K' Road intersection. In 1910 Auckland City Council built this Queen Anne style structure. Because of the adjacent Grafton Bridge it is more finely detailed than most public facilities of the period.

12. First Grafton Bridge

Designed by the Auckland City Council Engineer William Anderson this 360 foot long wooden bridge was built in 1884. It provided a pedestrian route between the town of Auckland, the Auckland Domain and Auckland Hospital. Following doubts about its structural worthiness it was replaced in 1904 by a second wooden pedestrian bridge and finally in 1910 by the current concrete structure.

13. Third Grafton Bridge A I ★ IPENZ Heritage Award – Centenary 2010

Built by the Ferro-Concrete Company of Australasia, this dual carriageway vehicle bridge with footpaths each side was designed by the engineer R.F Morrow. Championed by Auckland Mayor Arthur Myers, who was later knighted in 1924, it was considered extravagant by some and called "Myers Folly" for many years. When completed in 1910 it was the longest single span concrete arch bridge in the world at 96.7metres.



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14. Cemetery Entrance Arch Symonds Street

This gateway was constructed by the Auckland City Council in 1910. Designed by Miss Mary Pulling, the Head Mistress of Diocesan School for Girls, this may have been the earliest work of architecture by a woman in New Zealand. The stone structure in the Gothic style was, sadly, demolished in 1968.

14. Symonds Street Cemetery

Land was set aside for burials from 1842 onwards, each religion given a separate area. To the east of Symonds Street facing towards the harbour were the Anglican and Wesleyan burial grounds. To the west of Symonds Street were the Jewish, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic areas. In 1905 the cemetery was closed and given to Auckland City Council as a public park.

15. Symonds St Park & Jewish Cemetery Cnr Symonds St & K' Road

This part of the Jewish Cemetery was not used for interments. 1910 plans for a public bath house for the site were not realised. Later the park, as seen in this 1920s view was laid out. The bronze fountain by Greer Twiss was installed in 1969 (image last page). The 1953 Modernist style Jewish Centennial Memorial Hall is by A.N.Goldwater.

16. Partington's Windmill 83 Symonds Street

Built for Charles Partington in 1850 to mill flour, this tall brick structure was used as a navigation device by shipping. The furor caused by its demolition in 1950 led to heritage protection legislation and the formation of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Now the site of The Langham Auckland Hotel. www.langhamhotels.co.nz



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17. Corner Symonds Street & K' Road
1-75 Karangahape Road

This 1930s view shows the retail buildings on the northern side of K' Road including the first Lewis Eady shop, Tivoli Cinema, the Maples Furniture Store and the Caledonian Hotel. Opened in 1913 the Alhambra Picture Theatre was called the Grafton before becoming the Tivoli around 1917. The Tivoli was distinguished by unusual horseshoe shaped windows. All these buildings were demolished around 1980.



18. Baptist Tabernacle **A** **I**
429 Queen Street

Completed in 1886, the scale, style and position of this imposing building by architect Edmund Bell were intended as a statement. The Baptists eschewed the Gothic style favoured by most churches and built this Neo-Classical basilica to underline their return to the tenets of the early Christian church. The façade is based on that of the 1860s London Metropolitan Tabernacle. Thomas Spurgeon was the Auckland pastor. His father was the pastor of the London Tabernacle.



Auckland Museum Library

19.20. J. Morris Ltd, Tabernacle Chambers
141-151 Karangahape Road

These shops in the Edwardian Baroque style date from about 1908. In 1912 J. Morris Ltd organized the first Auckland Christmas Parade, an idea later copied by George Courts and then the Farmers Department Store. Located upstairs in the corner building were the offices of a number of trade unions, dressmakers, photographers and the studio of Charles Blomfield, decorator, sign-writer and notable artist.



21.22. Sneddens & Melvern's
155, 161 Karangahape Road

These retail buildings from around 1923 are examples of the Neo-Greek style. The taller building is by the prestigious architectural firm of Gummer & Ford. It was the showrooms of the Bristol Piano Company before becoming the premises of Sneddens Haberdashery. Above Melvern's Home Stores was located the Savoy Reception Rooms and Dance Hall.

23. St Kevin's Arcade
183 Karangahape Road

The front of this Neo-Greek building by Walter Arthur Cumming is from 1924, the rear portion, 1926. Because of a bequest from the Nathan family to the city of Auckland, this shopping arcade was built as the entrance to Myers Park from K Road.

Myers Park 1916

Intended as a safe place for children to play; following the 'reform Park' movement in the USA. The granite statue of Five Goats, presented in 1999 by Auckland's sister city Guangzhou, honours Chinese settlers in the area in the early 20th Century. (See also inside cover)

24.25. Butcher & Co, Flackson's
191, 207 Karangahape Road

Both these Neo-Greek buildings from 1924 are by W. A. Cumming. Butcher & Co were home furnishers. Flackson's was a ladies outfitter. The large metal framed windows were a sign of modernity, allowing the display of goods after dark by electric light. Window shopping before and after attending the cinema became popular around this time.



Auckland Museum Library



Auckland Museum Library



26. Kings Theatre II

5 Mercury Lane (formerly France Street)

This 1910 Edwardian Baroque building by Edward Bartley is Auckland's oldest surviving theatre. In 1911 the first colour film shown in New Zealand was screened here and in 1926 it was converted into a cinema. Mercury Theatre Company was based here from 1967 to 1990 and in commemoration the street was named Mercury Lane. (See also 40.)

27. Pitt Street Buildings

211-235 Karangahape Road

Completed in 1904 these retail shops were commissioned by the Methodist Church. They are built on the former site of a schoolroom and the minister's house. The distinctive gables on these Queen Anne shops have made them an emblem of Karangahape Road. Leo O'Malley Mens Store has been located on this corner since 1935.

28. Naval & Family Hotel

243 Karangahape Road

This building is regarded by many as a symbol of Karangahape Road. The exterior of this fine 1897 Italianate style hotel by Arthur Wilson has been recently restored to its original glory. Many 19th century drinking establishments had no awnings to discourage intoxicated men from loitering outside. (See also 17. & 46.)

29. George Courts Department Building II

238 Karangahape Road

Designed by architect Clinton Savage and completed in 1924. It shows the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright of the Chicago School and Otto Wagner of the Viennese Secessionist School. For many years 1YA radio was broadcast from rooftop radio towers. Built of reinforced concrete it was the Air Raid Central Command for Auckland during WWII.



Auckland Public Library



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30. Hallensteins Brothers Building 246-254 Karangahape Road

Architect Edward Mahoney designed several buildings for the Hallensteins Menswear Company, creating a house style for them. Originally this building consisted of three bays with the two to the right added about 1926. The influence of Louis Sullivan of the Chicago School can be seen in the recessed arched entrance on the Mercury Lane façade.

31. Pitt Street Methodist Church 78 Pitt Street

1866 church in the English Gothic style by local architect Philip Herepath. A planned two tone effect on the exterior was lost by the later application of cement plaster. The façade is ornamented by sculptures by Anton Teutonberg. Teutonberg, a Prussian, arrived in New Zealand in 1866. As he sculpted these stone heads while he was working on the High Court in Waterloo Quadrant these may be the earliest sculptures by a European in New Zealand. On either side of the main window are portrait heads of John and Charles Wesley, the 18th century founders of Methodism. The Festival of Britain style porch is from 1962. This view shows the 1877 wooden schoolroom which was later moved to Mission Bay. Behind it to the right is a two storied wooden residence for the minister.







32. Chatham Building 70-76 Pitt Street

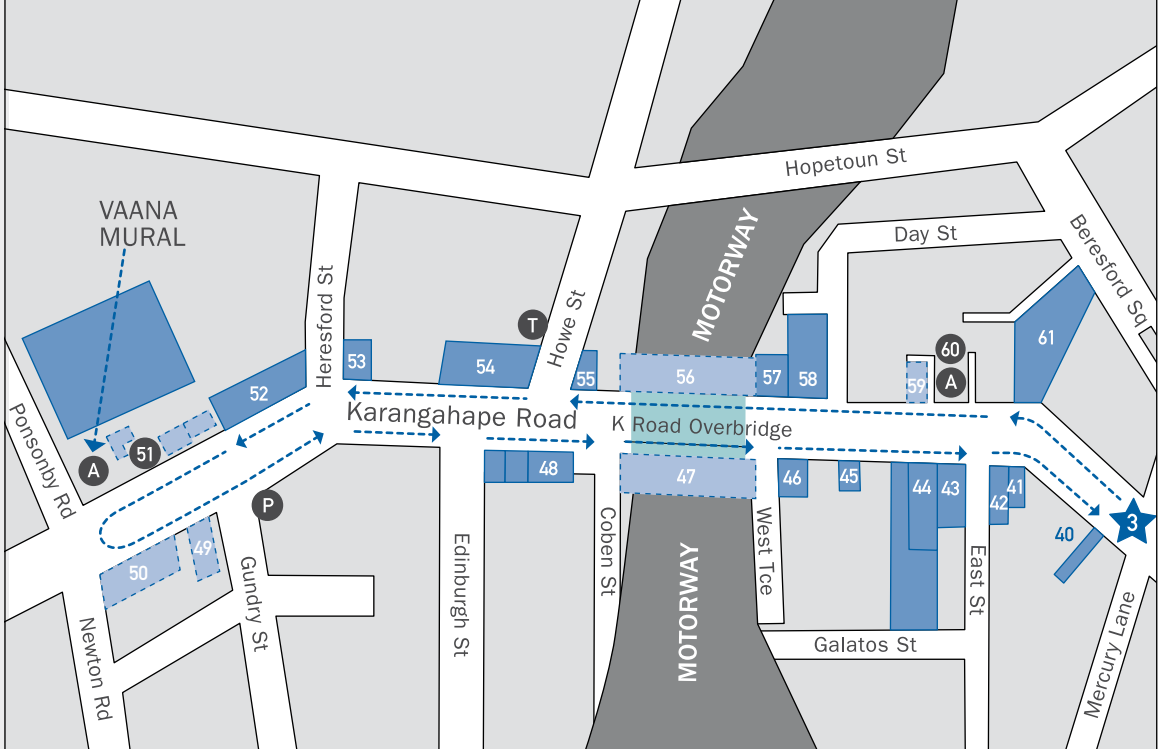
This circa 1910 façade was saved by being incorporated into a new apartment block. Like many brick buildings of the period it was covered with cement to imitate Portland stone. Having never been painted, it retains its original appearance. The Neo-Classical detailing is very fine; the sky can be seen between the foliage on the capitals.

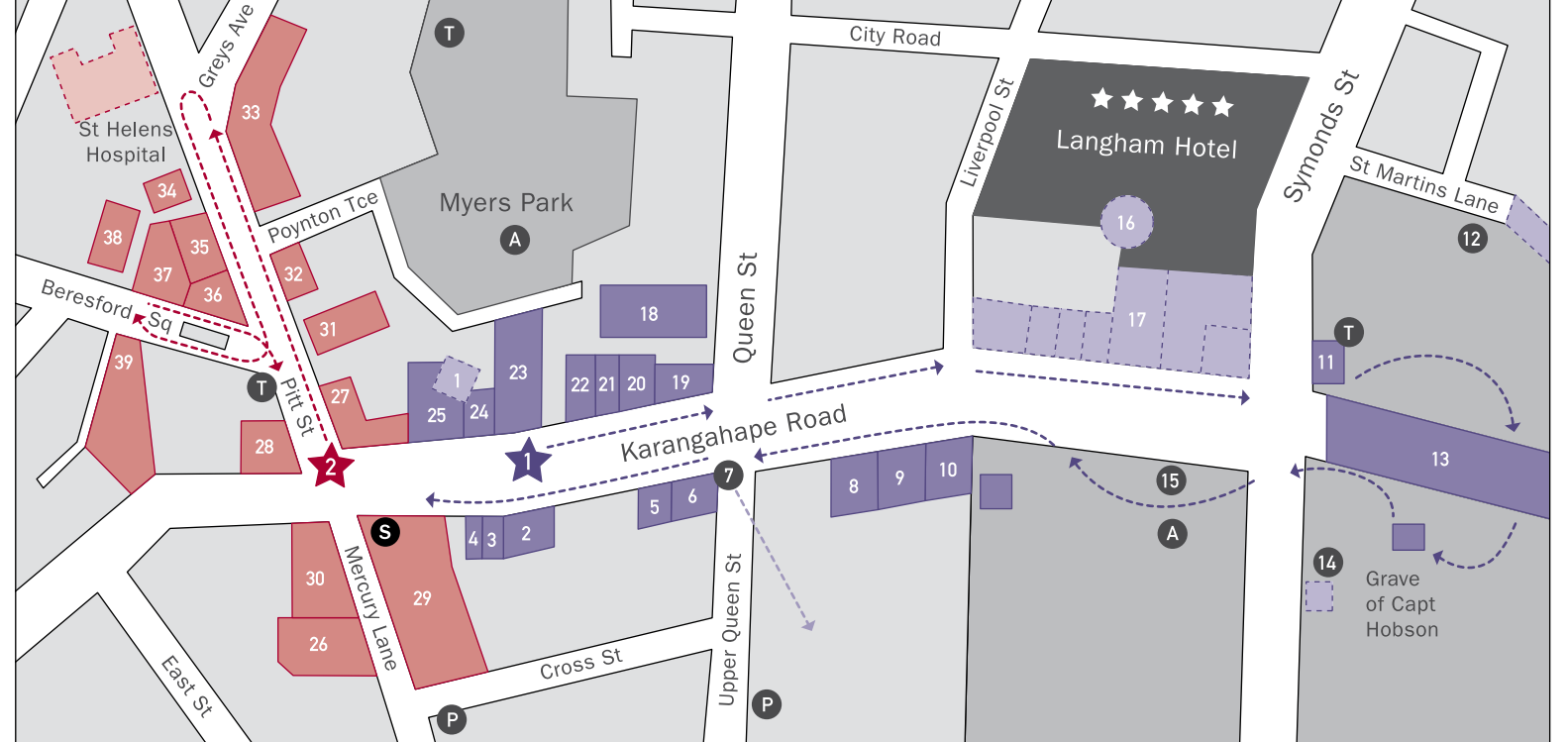
[Walk 2 continues after map pages](#)

SELF GUIDED WALKS

MAP KEY

-  Walk One
Symonds to Pitt
-  Walk Two
Pitt & Beresford
-  Walk Three
Pitt to Ponsonby
-  Existing Building
-  Demolished Building
-  Park
-  Public Toilet
-  Parking
-  Artworks
-  Starbucks Coffee







33. Central Fire Station
50-60 Pitt Street

This imposing example of the Art Deco Style was designed by architect Daniel B. Patterson. Built in 1944 of reinforced concrete it replaced a range of wooden 19th century shops. This is one of the last fire stations built with a functional fire tower. Note the brackets on the tower from which the canvas fire hoses were hung vertically to dry. On the opposite side of Pitt St was the 1906 St Helen's Maternity Hospital which relocated to Western Springs in the 1950s.



34. Saint John Ambulance ★
47 Pitt Street

At the beginning of the 20th Century Pitt Street was known as Auckland's Harley Street because of the many doctor's surgeries, rest homes and hospitals located in the area. This award winning building by Warren & Mahoney from the early 1990s is in a Postmodern ~ Deconstructivist style. The building's angular forms are abstractions derived from the Maltese Cross Badge of the Order of St John.



35. Head Fire Brigade Station |
50 Pitt Street

This 1902 example of the Queen Anne style was designed by the architects Goldsbro & Wade. In the 1940s when it became the St John Ambulance Head Quarters the façade details were simplified including the gables being removed. The Arts & Crafts polychrome brickwork effect intended by the architects is still evident on the 1912 Beresford Square façade around the corner.



Price Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, N.Z.



Auckland Museum Library



36. Wembley Buildings 1925
59 Pitt Street

A Stripped Classical style building popular in the inter-war period; it shows Art Deco influences in its horizontal emphasis and metal window frames. It is said that the Auckland Gas Company refused to have electricity in this building which, if true, must have made it one of the last buildings in New Zealand ever fitted with gas lighting.

37. Central Fire Station
1 Beresford Square

This extension to the 1902 Fire Station by Goldsbro & Wade is an example of the English Baroque Revival. Built in 1912, it retains the polychrome brickwork which has been obscured on the earlier Pitt St façade. From the glass windowed turret a 24 hour vigil for fires was kept, important in a city largely built of wood with few telephones.

38. Hopetoun Alpha **A** **I**
19 Beresford Square

1875 Beresford Street Congregationalist Church. This was one of the first buildings in New Zealand made of cast concrete. Designed by Philip Herepath in the Greek Doric Revival style it has a fine interior which has been sensitively restored. Now owned by a charitable trust it is an elegant and stylish events venue. www.hopetounalpha.co.nz

39. Samoa House Fale **★**
Next to 18 Beresford Square

Designed by JASMAD (now JASMAX) architects and completed in 1978, the exterior of Samoa House is clad in green striped glass panels. The ovoid portion in Beresford Street, seen here, is based on a traditional Samoan Fale (meeting house), believed to be the first built outside Samoa. (See also 61.)



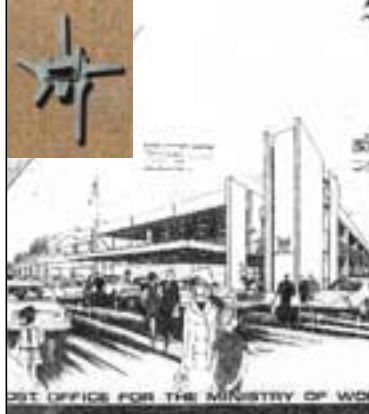
40. Norman Ng Building. 256 Karangahape Road

By 1926 the Kings Theatre had been renamed the Prince Edward and was a cinema. An entrance from K' Road was considered important and this Neo-Greek structure was built. For many years Norman Ng's Fruit Shop. It retains several original interior features including its tessellated tile floor and vaulted ceiling. (See also 26.)



41. Hannahs Shoe Shop 290 Karangahape Road

R. Hannah & Co was founded in the late 19th century and is still one of New Zealand's leading suppliers and retailers of shoes and boots. They had a branch on this site from 1913 until recently and built these premises in the then fashionable Neo-Greek style around 1925.



42. Newton Post Office 292-300 Karangahape Road

This Modernist building by architects Mark, Brown, Fairhead & Sang dates from 1973. It replaced several wooden 19th century shops. On the front façade is a bronze bas-relief by Guy Ngan, a noted New Zealand Chinese painter and sculptor whose work was often commissioned for Government projects during the 1970s.



43. ANZ Bank 312 Karangahape Road

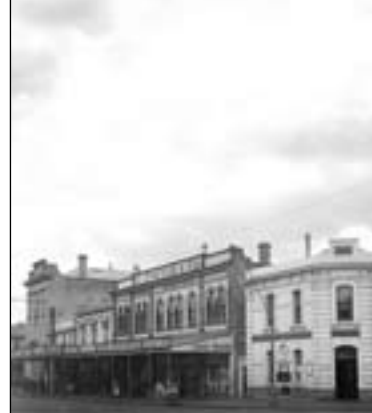
This building for the Union Bank of Australia & New Zealand dates from 1928. Designed by the firm of Mahoney & Sons, it shows the move away from the ornate Victorian Italianate to the simpler Neo-Classical styles of the interwar years. Its elegant façades are largely unaltered.



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44. The Bon Marche Chambers 322-340 Karangahape Road

To create an impressive setting for his Bon Marche Millinery Emporium Mr. Joseph Zahara applied an elegant Art Deco façade across several buildings to unify them visually. The architect was probably A. Sinclair O’Conner well known for his Courtville Apartments in Waterloo Quadrant. This 1920s makeover is still discernable despite later alterations.

45. Wrights Confectionery 358 Karangahape Road

A late Queen Anne style building featuring superb Art Nouveau leadlight windows, newly restored. The gable has the date 1917. The taste of the period demanded evenly coloured brickwork. As the locally produced bricks were very uneven in colour the façade has been covered with red stucco and imitation mortar lines.

46. Newton Hotel 382 Karangahape Road

This plastered brick 1860s building is one of the oldest in K’ Road. Built in the restrained Georgian Style it is largely unaltered. Before council lit streets drinking establishments were required to light the street as part of their license to sell alcohol. During the middle of the 20th century this area was called “Little India” because of the many Indian businesses.

47. K’ Road Overbridge 390-432 Karangahape Road

This view shows the buildings between West Street and Cobden Street that were demolished in the 1960s to make way for the motorway. At the eastern end of the range of wooden shops was the impressive Neo-Classical styled Bank of New Zealand of 1913 and at the other the Italianate Newton Post & Telegraph Office of 1878.



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48. Purchas block of shops
444-472 Karangahape Road

This view shows the buildings between Cobden Street and Edinburgh Street. The Taller shops from 1884 were built for Dr. Purchas by Edward Bartley have Oamaru stone detailing. Notice how the cheaper bricks with uneven colours were used for the sides of the buildings. In the 1930s the Auckland Meat Company replaced its wooden premises with a dark brick building in a mixture of the modern and classical styles.

49.50. Church of the Epiphany & The Star Hotel
358-382 Karangahape Road

The wooden Gothic styled Anglican Church of the Epiphany was built in 1886 and demolished in the late 1960s. The Italian Baroque Star Hotel building contained several retail shops. The Star Hotel was a working class pub until the 1960s when the population of the Newton area dwindled because of the construction of the motorway. Up until it was demolished in the 1970s the Star was popular with the transgender community.

51. Water Reservoir
565 Karangahape Road

Built in 1886 to the designs of the city engineer William Errington this water reservoir was gravity fed with water from the Waitakere Ranges. On K' Road once stood the "Turncock's house" and the Pumping Station/Workshop both also probably by Errington. To the left can be seen a public drinking fountain. The anti-nuclear VAANA (Visual Artists Against Nuclear Arms) Mural was installed on the reservoir wall in 1984.



Yanva Lowry



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52. Hereford Street Shops
537-553 Karangahape Road

This collection of Italianate shops is typical of the buildings put up by speculative builders of the Victorian period. The corner building, premises of the Ambury & English Devonshire Dairy since the 1890s, originally had an octagonal bay window turret. In the mid 1970s the upper floor was the 'KG Club' one of New Zealand's earliest Lesbian nightclubs.

53. M.J Bennett Ltd
529 Karangahape Road

The Newton Volunteer Fire Brigade was located on this corner site prior to the setting up of the Auckland Municipal Fire Board. This Italianate style building probably dates from around 1900 and has particularly good detailing and proportions. M.J Bennett Ltd was a firm of painters and interior decorators.

54. Garrets Buildings
473 Karangahape Road

Built in 1886 for Garret Brothers, a boot-making firm, the façades of these Victorian Italianate shops were largely unaltered when the K' Road Plaza was constructed in the late 1980s. The Edwardian underground men's toilets that were located in the middle of the Howe Street intersection were removed around this time.

55. Hellaby's Corner
469 Karangahape Road

This wooden shop in the Victorian Italianate style was occupied by several independent butchers before becoming a branch of Hellabys Butchers around 1915. Decorating the cornice of the upper façade are some Freemasons emblems. The wooden shops next door were originally also two storied but were reduced in height at some time.



Auckland City Libraries

56. Karangahape Road Overbridge
379-467 Karangahape Road

This 1920's view shows Rush Munro's Ice-cream Parlour. To the left is the Newton Arcade which gave access to the "Avenue Boarding House" at the rear of the property which had been built as the home of Samuel Vaile. All of the buildings in this view were demolished when the motorway was constructed in the 1960s.



Auckland Museum Library

57. La Gloria Gramophone Ltd
375-377 Karangahape Road

In 1923 Charles Pearson obtained a license to operate a radio station called 1YB and from 1933, 1ZB. The morning announcer was Daisy Bashan, (Aunt Daisy). The Fellowship of the Friendly Road with Rev. Colin Scrimgeour (Uncle Scrim) broadcast from here. During the 1935 election government agents jammed Scrimgeour's 'Man in the street' broadcast resulting in a political scandal.



Auckland City Libraries

58. Rising Sun Hotel
373 Karangahape Road

This hotel, built around 1880, is a fine example of Edward Mahoney's work in the Victorian Italianate Style. In the 1930s or 1940s the façade was altered to give it an up to date Art Deco Moderne look. The detailing was chipped off to create an approximation of the Streamline style.

59. National Bank
345 Karangahape Road

Designed in the Edwardian Baroque style by Mahoney & Sons this Bank was one of the most exuberant buildings along K' Road. It was distinguished by a finely detailed corner turret. This 1909 building was demolished amid controversy in the 1980s and the site stood empty for some years.



The K' Road area in 1957

The construction of motorways in the 1960s required the compulsory purchase and demolition of over 15,000 homes in Newton and Freemans Bay. Over 45,000 people had to move which had a major impact on retail along Symonds Street and Ponsonby and K' Road. Businesses relocated or closed and plummeting rents resulted in the establishment of K' Road's infamous red-light district.

60. The Las Vegas Girl 335 Karangahape Road

One of the last remnants of K' Road's once flourishing red-light district; this sign has gained almost iconic status. In the 1960s and 1970s K' Road had quite a lurid reputation but this has changed with the construction of apartments. The return of residents to the area has resulted in the opening of many cafes and art galleries.

61. Samoa House ★ 283 Karangahape Road

This building by JASMAD architects was finished in 1978 and is the premises of the Samoan Consulate. A distinctive feature of the façade is the green striped glass panels evoking the woven patterns of the Pacific. This Award winning building is a reminder of a time when there was a significant Polynesian presence on K' Road. (See also 39.)

★ STARBUCKS COFFEE 238 Karangahape Rd, Auckland

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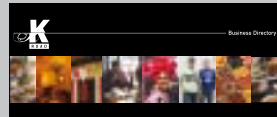


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Auckland War Memorial Museum
www.aucklandmuseum.com

New Zealand Historic Places Trust
www.historic.org.nz

Alexander Turnbull Library
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www.library.otago.ac.nz/hocken

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15. Karangahape Rocks by Greer Twiss
 Cnr Symonds St & K' Road

Today K' Road is a vibrant arts and cultural centre with 12 contemporary art galleries and film and moving image venues. It has over a 100 eateries and is famous for avant-garde designer fashion and vintage clothing stores. It is a 24 hour night club precinct and home to many of Auckland's GLBT venues. Find an events calendar or order free art gallery guides at www.kroad.com

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Back cover

Rangitoto Island from The Langham Auckland site
George O'Brian, c.1885, watercolour
Auckland Art Gallery

www.kroad.com

