

DO YOU ADMIRE OLD BUILDINGS? SEE TE AROHA'S FINEST!

While there are many other buildings of great interest, this pamphlet will lead you on a short trail around Te Aroha.

Please remember that most of the buildings are on private property and the owners' privacy should be respected.

While following the trail around Te Aroha you will go back in time through various phases of history. These notes give you a background to the buildings and their place in this remarkable town.

1. TE AROHA i-SITE

At the Whitaker Street entrance to the Te Aroha Domain.



Te Aroha Information Centre, built in 1894, was originally the first ticket office for the Domain and was the first significant structure in the domain not built specifically for bathing purposes. The building is now home to Te Aroha i-SITE, part of the i-SITE Visitor Centre network providing information and booking service, locally and nationally. The information centre is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and it is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

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2. THE GRAND HOTEL

Cross the road and continue down to the corner of Whitaker and Rolleston Street.



After a huge blaze destroyed the British Hotel in January 1896, a new hotel was commissioned to be built later that year. It was originally called The Family Hotel, changing its name to The Grand Hotel in 1900. The hotel is registered Category I with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

3. POST OFFICE

Return up Whitaker Street to the corner of Whitaker and Boundary Streets.



Officially opened on 15 April 1912 by Mayor R. L. Somers, who was Mayor between 1921 and 1941, the masonry building served as the Te Aroha Post Office until the 1980s when a new post shop was built on the corner of Whitaker and Kenrick

Streets. The Post Office is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

4. TUTUMANGAEO STREAM

Stream runs adjacent to the Post Office.

Prior to 1985 the Upper Tutumangaero Stream fed Te Aroha's water supply reservoir. During the 1985 storm the stream changed course, filling the reservoir with boulders, trees and other debris, making the reservoir unusable. The Waikato Regional Authority and Matamata-Piako District Council undertook large scale channelling and landscaping as part of a flood protection scheme to create the channels that are seen today.

5. HERRIES MEMORIAL PARK

Turn left into Boundary Street and continue to the end. The entrance to the park is on the left on the opposite side of the street.

Herries Park has a marble statue erected in honour of Sir William Herries, a local farmer who was Member of Parliament for this area (at that time called the Tauranga electorate) from 1896 until his death in 1923. He was given a state funeral in St Mark's Church, Te Aroha, attended by the leading dignitaries of the day. Many important sporting and cultural events have been held in the park and it is now home to the Te Aroha Athletic Club. The memorial is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.



6. TE AROHA LIBRARY

Cross back over the stream and head up Rewi Street.



The Te Aroha Library was opened in August 1938 by Mayor Robert Coulter. The building began as the Te Aroha Borough Council offices with the library in a small section of the building. Although it has been altered internally over the years, its clean lines and rimu and brass fittings have a timeless quality. The Te Aroha Library still uses some of the original furnishings used by the Borough Council. The building is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.



7. OLD COURTHOUSE

Continue up Rewi Street.

The Te Aroha Courthouse, completed in 1883, was in use even before the roof was built. A special sitting was arranged after a fracas at the Palace Hotel. The Courthouse had a significant role in dealing with mining licences for the Te Aroha and Waiorongomai fields, and leasehold agreements for property in the township. The Courthouse is now the Te Aroha Arts Centre. The Courthouse is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

8. COULTER BRIDGE

Continue up Rewi Street and turn left into Kenrick Street.



The road and pedestrian bridge over the Waihou River on Kenrick Street is named after Robert Coulter, Mayor of Te Aroha for 20 years. Completed in 1928, it carries thousands of vehicles each day, between the Waikato and the Coromandel as part of State Highway 26. Prior to this bridge there was a one way bridge and the railway bridge was also used for traffic for a period of time. In 1992 more than 600 people from Te Aroha and the surrounding district, encouraged by local community group Project Te Aroha, turned out to paint the bridge in heritage colours. Power NZ donated the lamps as a tribute to the old Thames Valley Electric Power Board, which was based in Te Aroha for many years.

9. SKIDMORE RESERVE

Continue over the bridge until the reserve on the right hand side.

Skidmore Reserve was previously known as Kenwyn Reserve as it is adjacent to Kenwyn Home. The home was a maternity hospital between 1921 and 1960 and is now used as a rest home. The reserve was renamed in 2010 after Henry William Dickens Skidmore, the Mayor of Te Aroha for 15 years from 1959 to 1974. Materials from the 1985 landslide were used to create this lovely picnic area.

10. THE RAILWAY BRIDGE

Follow the path within the reserve up the stairs and turn right at the top. Follow this path and continue along the pedestrian bridge.

(Note: in poor weather conditions the bridge can become unsafe and is closed for access. In the event the bridge is closed, return to the reserve and cross back over the Coulter bridge following the alternative route on the map).

The Railway Bridge was built in 1912, replacing a bridge that opened in 1886 which had a remarkable turnstile structure. The concrete base of the old 1886 moving bridge can still be seen incorporated into the present bridge. The turnstile was necessary to allow boats and barges to pass through. After 1987 the bridge was converted into a footbridge for pedestrian use only.

11. RAILWAY STATION

At the end of the bridge, cross the road and continue through the reserve towards the railway station.



The existing station was opened on 26 October 1908 with a ladies' waiting room and general lobby. The last train passed along the railway line in 1991 but the station closed four years earlier in 1987. The building was sold to its current owners, the Te Aroha Mountain Railway Group, in 1994. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY MCINDOE COLLECTION.

12. RSA MEMORIAL CLUB

Turn down Lipsey Street, then turn left into Lawrence Avenue. The RSA is located on the corner of Lawrence Ave and Rewi Street.

The Returned Servicemen's Association memorial clubrooms were built in 1947 with a major expansion in 1992-93. The additions have been made in keeping with the original "California Spanish" style.

13. ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Continue up Lawrence Ave then turn left into Whitaker Street. Cross Whitaker Street and continue upwards. The Church is on the corner of Whitaker Street and Burgess Street.

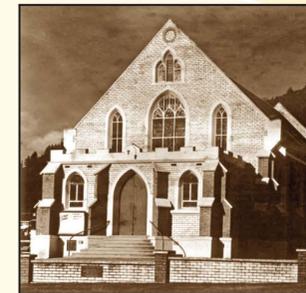


The original Roman-Catholic church was built in 1906, and was shifted to Waitoa in the early 1950s. The present church was built in 1957, and reflects the Art Deco style. The Church is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

14. ST DAVID'S CHURCH

Turn right into Burgess Street and then right into Church Street. The church is located on the left hand side.

Built as the Presbyterian Church in 1931, it is now used by a co-operating parish of Methodists and Presbyterians. Much of the land along Church Street



was gifted by the daughter of Mokena for the provision of churches; as a result this church is one of many that were once along this street. The Church is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in

the Matamata-Piako District Plan.



15. TE AROHA LODGE NO.52

Turn right into Lawrence Avenue.
The Lodge is on the left hand side.

The original Lodge, built in 1884 by the Freemasons had wall cavities packed with sawdust to make the building sound-proof and protect the group's privacy. Another Lodge was built in Rewi Street in 1904 and became the new premises for the Freemasons.

16. OLD ANZ BANK

Turn left and continue along Whitaker Street.
The bank is on the left hand side.

The old ANZ Bank building on Whitaker Street, with its imposing façade and large steps, was built in 1922 and is now a café. ANZ sold the building in the late 1980s/early 1990s. The building is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

17. MEMORIAL CLOCK

Continue along Whitaker Street. The clock is at the intersection of Whitaker and Kenrick Streets.

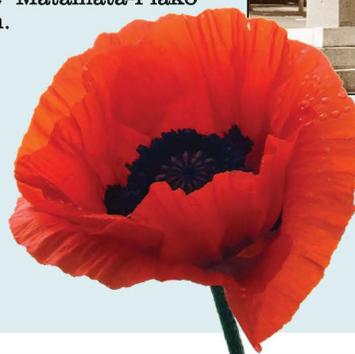
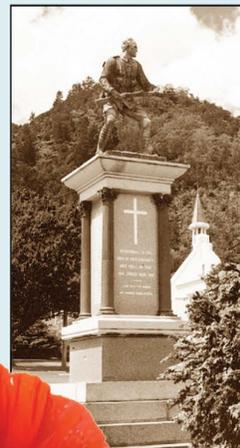


Built by George Barclay in 1952, the town's most striking feature is undoubtedly the tall chiming clock standing 3.2 metres tall at the junction of Kenrick and Whitaker Streets. It is Te Aroha's War Memorial Clock, dedicated to the memory of 200 of its sons from town and district who fell in World Wars I and II. It also serves as a tribute to nearly 1000 others who served in the armed forces. The clock is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

18. WWI MEMORIAL

The memorial is located up Kenrick Street behind the clock.

The Great War Statue behind the Memorial Clock was commissioned from McNab and Mason of Auckland in the 1920s. It is one of several examples in the Southern Hemisphere of the work of the Italian sculptor Giobonni. It is constructed of Canadian granite and represents a New Zealand Infantryman of the time. The statue is unique as the soldier is standing in a fighting position. The memorial is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.



19. ST MARK'S CHURCH

Continue up Kenrick Street. The Church is on the corner of Church and Kenrick Street.



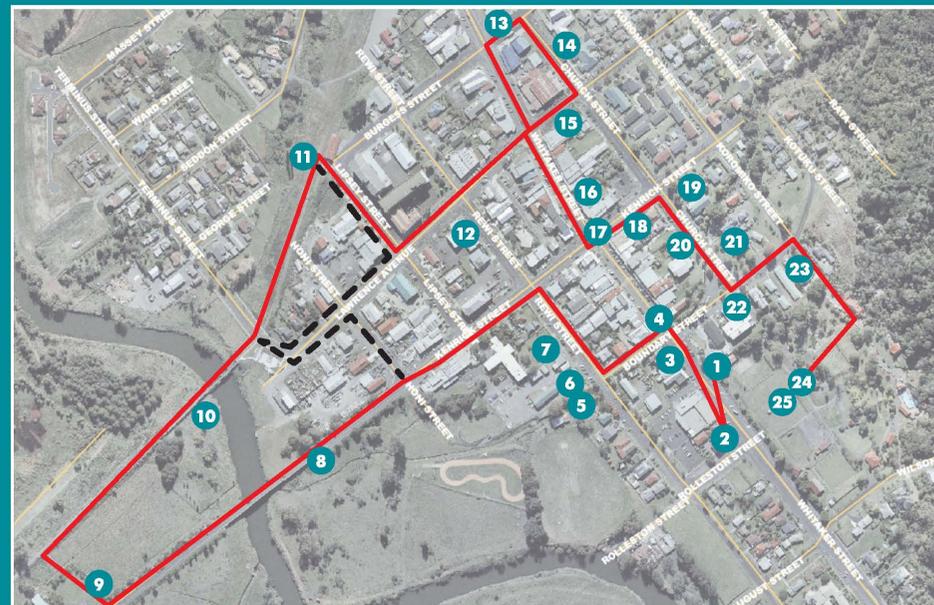
The Anglican Church was built as a World War I Memorial "peace" Church in 1926 at a total cost (including seating) of £4,230. The Church houses the oldest pipe organ in the Southern Hemisphere. Commissioned by Queen Anne, it was built

by Renatus Harris, organ builder to the Crown, in the early 1700s. The organ was gifted to St Mark's by Mrs Maude E. St Barbe Wayne in April 1927, after she brought it to New Zealand from England. The Church is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

20. OLD MINER'S COTTAGE

Turn right and continue along Church Street, the cottage is on the right hand side.

Built before 1914, this miner's cottage is still in its original condition with the original ceiling and matai and kauri floors.



Key

- 1 Te Aroha i-SITE
- 2 The Grand Hotel
- 3 Post Office
- 4 Tutumangao Stream
- 5 Herries Memorial Park
- 6 Te Aroha Library
- 7 Old Courthouse
- 8 Coulter Bridge
- 9 Skidmore Reserve
- 10 The Railway Bridge
- 11 Railway Station
- 12 RSA Memorial Club
- 13 St Joseph's Church
- 14 St David's Church
- 15 Te Aroha Lodge No. 52
- 16 Old ANZ Bank
- 17 Memorial Clock
- 18 WWI Memorial
- 19 St Mark's Church
- 20 Old Miner's Cottage
- 21 Mokena Boutique Hotel and Restaurant
- 22 Hazelwood House
- 23 The Old Maternity Hospital
- 24 Te Aroha Domain
- 25 Cadman Bath House

MAIN ROUTE

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

21. MOKENA BOUTIQUE HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Mokena is almost directly opposite the cottage on Church Street.

Previously known as the Waiorongomai Hotel, this building constructed in 1907 was originally a hotel in the gold-mining settlement of Waiorongomai. Peter Baine was contracted to shift the building. It was cut into several pieces and transported on a flat deck wagon drawn by six horses and driven by Bob Thompson to the present site in the early 1920s where it became known as Hinemoa House. The southern portion of the building was completed in 1927 in complementary style. The building is now known as Mokena Boutique Hotel and Restaurant. The Hotel is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.



22. HAZELWOOD HOUSE

Continue along Church Street to the end where Hazelwood House is located.

The site was bought by Peter Baine in 1907 and shortly afterwards the back section of the building was brought in from Waiorongomai. The front section was built on site. Hazelwood House was run as a boarding house by the Hotchins family (related to Peter Baine by marriage) during the prime of the Te Aroha Mineral Baths in the early 1900s. The House is registered Category II with the Historic Places Trust and is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.



23. THE OLD MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Turn left up Boundary Street. The building is on the right hand side on the corner of Boundary Street and the entrance to the Te Aroha Domain.

In 1912 this property was sold to two nurses who named it Glencairn Private Hospital. In the 1930s it changed its name to Strathearn. It was one of the original Te Aroha Maternity Hospitals. The Hospital is on Schedule 1 of Historic Sites in the Matamata-Piako District Plan.



24. TE AROHA DOMAIN

Turn right and follow the entrance into the Domain. Follow the paths throughout the Domain and explore the numerous heritage buildings and sites.

Te Aroha Hot Springs Domain is unique as it is the only complete Edwardian Domain in New Zealand. It covers an area of 44 hectares and includes Edwardian buildings, gardens, barbecues and picnic areas. By the early 1900s there were 18 springs, 15 of them hot. The following century saw the Domain increase to its present size as land adjoining the original domain was bought from the original landowners, the Morgan and Lipsey families. This expanded the recreation space of the Domain beyond the springs and now includes a network of walking tracks and indigenous forest. The Domain is managed by the Matamata-Piako District Council.

25. CADMAN BATH HOUSE

For more information on the sites seen in this trail and other sites within Te Aroha visit the Te Aroha and District Museum in the heart of the Domain. The museum occupies the Cadman Bath House which was built in 1898 as a bath house with 19 top of the range baths in it.



DISTRICT OFFICE – Ph 07 884 0060

35 Kenrick Street, Te Aroha 3320

PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342

TE AROHA i-SITE – Ph 07 884 8052

102 Whitaker Street, Te Aroha 3320

www.tearohanz.co.nz

Information contained within this brochure is presented in good faith. While every care has been taken in its preparation, MPDC accepts no responsibility for its accuracy. April 2012.

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